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NEW ERA BEGINS

Revanth to take oath as Telangana CM today

SOUTH » PAGE 7

BEHIND THE SUCCESS

How BJP retained Madhya Pradesh

NEWS » PAGE 9 & 10

PENDING DUES

SpiceJet plane seized by lessors in Dubai

NEWS » PAGE 12

ELECTION IMPACT

Lessons from the Assembly polls for 2024 battle

How Opposition analyses results will be crucial

EDITORIAL » PAGE 8

IN THE LEAD

Sciver-Brunt, Wyatt star in England's win

SPORT » PAGE 15

NEARBY

BJP stages walkout in Assembly

BELAGAVI
The government defended Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's assurance to gradually increase allocation to Minorities Department amid a walkout by the Opposition BJP in the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday. » Page 4

CM launches co-branded health cards

BELAGAVI
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah launched the new co-branded Ayushman Bharat health cards renamed as Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana - Chief Minister's Arogya Karnataka in Belagavi. » PAGE 2

Health Dept. directs DHOs to seal 'fake' clinics

BENGALURU
In the wake of the recent unearthing of a sex determination racket across Bengaluru, Mandya, and Mysuru districts, the Health Department has directed District Health Officers (DHOs) to enforce the Karnataka Private Medical Establishments (KPME) Act more effectively and seal 'fake clinics'. » PAGE 2

BBMP elections: Former councillors question SEC

BENGALURU
Former councillors are now questioning the State Election Commission (SEC) for not being pro-active in persuading the government and High Court to conduct the delayed civic polls. » PAGE 3

114 seats, migrant quota cleared for J&K Assembly

Lok Sabha passes Bill; Amit Shah says reservation of seats for those displaced in the 1990s will ensure that the voice of the community is heard loud and clear in the new House

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023, and the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the former seeking to reserve seats for "Kashmiri migrants, people displaced from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir [PoK] and Scheduled Tribes" in the yet-to-be constituted 114-seat J&K Assembly.

Responding to statements made by Opposition members that abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution in J&K could not put an end to terrorism, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that he had never made such a claim.

He said a "zero-terror" plan, formulated three years ago, will be "100% implemented" by 2026 in J&K. He said the reservation of seats for Kashmiri migrants, who were displaced from their own homes in the 1990s, will ensure that the voice of the community is heard "loud and clear in the J&K Assembly" and if any such crisis arises in future, they are able to stop it.

The Reorganisation Bill increases the total number of seats in the J&K Assembly from 107 to 114, with reservation of nine seats for the Scheduled Tribes for the first time. It also empowers the Lieutenant-Governor to nominate three members in the Assembly – two from the Kashmiri migrant community including one woman, and the third member being a representative of people from PoK who took refuge in India following the wars with Pakistan in 1947, 1965 and 1971.

The J&K Reservation Bill seeks to replace the term "weak and underprivileged classes (social castes)" in the J&K Reservation Act, 2004 to "Other Backward Classes" as declared by the Union Territory.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Making changes

A look at the J&K Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill and the J&K Reservation (Amendment) Bill

- The Reorganisation Bill increases the total number of seats in the J&K Assembly to 114 from 107
- Nine seats are reserved for the Scheduled Tribes for the first time
- It also empowers the Lieutenant-Governor to nominate three members to the Assembly - two members from the Kashmiri migrant community, with one nominee being a woman, and one member from among the people from PoK who took refuge in India following the wars with Pakistan in 1947, 1965 and 1971
- The Reservation Bill seeks to replace the term "weak and underprivileged classes (social castes)" in the J&K Reservation Act, 2004 to "other backward classes"

Point of view: Home Minister Amit Shah speaks in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday. PTI

Govt. needs latitude to make peace, says CJI

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Noting that the government should be given leeway if a 'compromise' is necessary to save the nation, Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud said on Wednesday that the Assam Accord of 1985 and the new citizenship regime which followed in its wake might have been an "adjustment" reached by the Rajiv Gandhi government to calm the waves of violent anti-immigrant protests that rolled over the northeastern State for years, and threatened national peace.

"You must give the government that latitude. Even today, there are States in the northeast affected by insurgency and violence...," Chief Justice Chandrachud, heading a Constitution Bench, observed.

The Bench was hearing a series of petitions filed by indigenous groups from Assam which have challenged Section 6A of the Citizenship Act of 1955. The petitioners, represented by senior advocate Shyam Divan, claimed the provision became a "beacon" for more foreign "infiltration" into Assam, leading to the destruction of the local cultural identity.

> Obviously, every compromise made is never perfect. The State of Assam was riven with strife at the time
>
> Chief Justice of India **D.Y. CHANDRACHUD** on Section 6A of the Citizenship Act of 1955

'Not justified'

Mr. Divan said a justification that there was a violent political agitation, leading to a political settlement, was not sufficient basis to single out Assam for implementing an entirely new citizenship regime under Section 6A.

"Illegal immigration into Assam has been rewarded with the benefits of Indian citizenship," Mr. Divan submitted.

"Obviously, every compromise made is never perfect. The State of Assam was riven with strife at the time. Does the government arrive at this compromise to bring peace to Assam or allow the strife-ridden State to continue in its path of violence merely because the compromise may 'discriminate' among States... These are vexed issues. Any solution found can be an inexact one," the CJI asked Mr. Divan.

But the senior lawyer argued that Section 6A was discriminatory in itself. The provision cannot be justified by saying that its object was good, Mr. Divan said. "Illegals were treated as citizens. Unequals were treated as equals," he submitted.

75 sportspersons from State to be trained for Paris Olympics

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Minister for Youth Empowerment and Sports B. Nagendra has said a total of 75 sportspersons from the State had been chosen for training and support ahead of the Paris Olympics scheduled to be held next year.

Replying to a question from Darshan Puttannaiah in the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday on the schemes of the State government to encourage sportspersons in Karnataka, Mr. Nagendra said the State government was implementing the Amrutha Sports Adoption Scheme from 2021-22 to facilitate sportspersons from the State to compete in top sports platforms like National Sports Meet, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, Olympics etc.

Minister B. Nagendra

A total of 75 athletes with medal-winning potential had been chosen for the Olympics to be held in Paris during 2024, the Minister said.

The objective of the scheme is to identify, nurture and provide necessary support systems to talented athletes, who have the potential to perform at the international level including Olympics.

"The beneficiaries of the said scheme are being given an annual incentive of ₹10 lakh each for their sports training, sports science support, nutritious food, purchase of sports kits required for training, participation in National Games, daily needs and for education expenses," he said.

Also, Mr, Nagendra said the State government would appoint 180 physical education coaches to train sports persons in different fields.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 3

A last resort

Patients being shifted in a garbage collector in Chennai on Wednesday as several areas in the city continue to be waterlogged. R. RAVINDRAN

DMK MP's remark on Hindi heartland States roils LS; BJP wants Stalin also to apologise

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The controversy over a reference made by Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam MP D.N.V. Senthilkumar to Hindi heartland States continued to simmer on Wednesday, forcing an adjournment of the Lok Sabha despite a formal apology tendered by the MP on the floor of the House.

During Tuesday's debate on the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, Mr. Senthilkumar made the references which were later expunged from the record.

A day later, Union Ministers Piyush Goyal and Pralhad Joshi demanded that T.R. Baalu, the DMK leader in the House, apologise for Mr. Kumar's remarks.

D.N.V. Senthilkumar

"Statement made by Senthilkumar was not correct. [Tamil Nadu Chief Minister] M.K. Stalin has warned the particular member," Mr. Baalu said.

At a press conference held later, Union Minister Rajeev Chandrashekhar said: "I heard Mr. T.R. Baalu say today that Chief Minister Stalin has told MP Senthilkumar to not make such statements. But there is a question that has to be asked to Mr. Baalu and Stalin. What about Udyanidhi Stalin's statement? Has he (M.K. Stalin) advised Udhayanidhi Stalin to apologise? What about A. Raja?" the BJP leader said. "Why can't Stalin apologise?"

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Stop baiting Hinduism: SP

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

The Samajwadi Party (SP) on Wednesday criticised the DMK, asking if the ruling party of Tamil Nadu had abandoned the Hindu religion. Those who do not like Hinduism and its symbols should accept Buddhism or any other religion but stop criticising Hinduism, the party said.

"If someone makes fun of the religion of Islam, the Muslim community protects its religion and is ready to sacrifice its life. On the other hand, some Hindus are making fun of their gods and goddesses, Vedas, Puranas, culture and traditions every day. DMK leaders are saying derogatory words every day. Have they abandoned Hindu religion? wrote I.P. Singh, close aide of SP president Akhilesh Yadav on X (formerly Twitter).

"There should be a strict law on this [criticism]; otherwise the dignity of Hindu religion will be destroyed," he said.

CM directs Home Secretary to take steps to set up special court to try Kalburgi, Gauri cases

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has directed the Home Secretary to take steps to set up a special court for a fast-track trial of Gauri Lankesh and M.M. Kalburgi murder cases.

The families of the two had been making such a demand as the trials in these cases have been dragging on for long.

Kalburgi was killed on August 30, 2015 and editor-activist Gauri Lankesh on September 5, 2017.

Investigations by the Special Investigation Team formed after the murder of Gauri Lankesh had filed chargesheets in both cases in 2018-19, alleging a criminal syndicate inspired by the teachings of Goa-based Hindutva organisation Sanatan Sanstha and members associated with its sister organisation Hindu Janjagruti Samiti killed both of them, as they perceived them to be "anti-Hindu".

Gauri Lankesh and M.M. Kalburgi

The chargesheets in these cases were filed in 2018 and 2019.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 3

Saha – from India's best gloveman to Tripura's mentor-in-chief

K. MURALI KUMAR

Wriddhiman has reinvented himself since being dropped from the Test team and managed to stay relevant; he has guided his IPL franchise Gujarat Titans and shaped the next generation of players in the Northeastern State

N. Sudarshan

In early 2022, Wriddhiman Saha was despondent and desolate. Unceremoniously dumped from the Indian Test squad ahead of the two-match series at home versus Sri Lanka, the wicketkeeper-batter also had his commitment questioned by an official back home at the Cricket Association of Bengal after he pulled out of the 2021-22 Ranji Trophy citing personal reasons.

The axe from the National team was the first time Saha wasn't part of the Indian roster after taking over the big gloves from M.S. Dhoni. He hasn't played a Test since then, with K.S. Bharat and now Ishan Kishan leapfrogging him in the race to be the second choice after Rishabh Pant. The tiff with Bengal wasn't resolved and that led to Saha severing ties with a State for whom he had played all career, including 52 times in the Ranji Trophy.

For most players in the wrong side of 30s as Saha was, such unsavoury happenings would have spelt the end of their careers and marked a quiet retreat into the commentator's box or a coaching role in one of many franchise cricket leagues that have mushroomed around the world.

THE GIST

- Saha played 28 of Titans' 33 games, including all 17 in 2023, scoring 688 runs at a healthy average of 27.44 and a strike-rate of more than 120
- In the 2023-24 Hazare Trophy, Tripura recorded thumping wins over Saurashtra (148 runs) and Mumbai (53 runs by VJD method)
- Even at the age of 39, the wicketkeeper-batter has committed to play the full schedule for Tripura

Effervescent

But not for Saha. The now 39-year-old has completed two successful seasons with Gujarat Titans in the Indian Premier League, winning the title on the franchise's debut in 2022 and finishing a creditable finalist to Chennai Super Kings this year. Saha played 28 of Titans' 33 matches, including all 17 in 2023, scoring 688 runs at a healthy average of 27.44 and a strike-rate of more than 120.

After quitting Bengal, Saha took up a player-cum-mentor role with Tripura. In the 2022-23 Ranji Trophy, with Saha as captain, Tripura secured the first-innings lead against former champions Gujarat and Punjab, and also against the then defending champion Madhya Pradesh.

This season, in the just-concluded Vijay Hazare Trophy group stage, he led Tripura to famous wins over reigning champion Saurashtra and heavyweight Mumbai. The Northeastern State finished third behind Mumbai and Kerala in Group-A. One more victory would have given Saha's men a genuine chance at making the knockouts.

"When I landed in Tripura after leaving Bengal, it didn't feel like I had come to some new team," Saha told *The Hindu* on the sidelines of the Hazare Trophy match against Saurashtra at the Alur Cricket Stadium. "The common thing that connects me with Tripura is the language. We both speak Bengali and I have played with them in the zonals. So I knew them pretty well.

"The environment was also such that, as a captain, I could get my message across 100%. Whatever I have asked of the team, they have given me. That also means I should be delivering. So it's both ways and it has been great.

"We have performed consistently. Percentage-wise, the wins may not be that high, but we are improving steadily. We have built a good environment, and overall, the batting and bowling contingents are shaping well. If this continues, we will win more matches."

Saha's shift to a less-heralded team is in line with what many a senior accomplished cricketer has done in the Indian domestic circles. Uttar Pradesh's R.P. Singh played for Gujarat, so did Piyush Chawla and Andhra's Venugopala Rao. Robin Uthappa turned out for Kerala after leaving Karnataka and Ganesh Satish, a former Karnataka captain, played for Vidarbha and even helped the side win the Ranji Trophy. Ganesh is now at Tripura alongside Saha, lending some steel and high-level tactical know-how.

Experience counts

"The smaller teams' players may not have much experience about how to chase a target or about how to convert a start into a bigger innings," Saha explained. "If two or three experienced players come in, it definitely helps, even in practice sessions. The role of a professional is exactly that – to share knowledge, charge up the atmosphere and take the team along."

What Saha has brought to Tripura is his assured presence behind the stumps and a calm head. The skills that made him the best gloveman in India are still intact – high levels of concentration, safe and orderly collection and supreme anticipation. Like Mohammad Azharuddin at his best, there is an economy of movement in what he does, but there is seldom a situation where he is not at the right place at the right time.

Pant-style acrobatics are not for him, though when needed, he can summon a diluted but equally effective version of them; so much so that, during Tripura's match against Kerala last week, when he dived to his left to latch on to a fast ball that was racing down to the leg-side boundary, chants of "Superman Superman" reverberated at Alur.

"I don't train much quantity-wise," Saha said. "It has reduced a lot. I focus more on recovery now because the ageing process will not stop. So it has become more about quality practice than quantity. In T20 cricket, 'keeping is not very hectic, because not many balls reach the wicketkeeper... only about 10 or 12 maximum. But one-day cricket and Ranji are challenging. If you bat, then you have to come back and keep for 50 overs. In Ranji, it may be more. So I focus more on ice-baths, sleep and relaxation. I do all of that diligently so that I am fine the next day."

It is astonishing why Saha, at this stage in his career, is willing to put himself through this ordeal and go through the extreme rigours of domestic cricket. He has committed to play a full schedule for Tripura – Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (T20), Hazare Trophy (one-day) and Ranji (four-day). Good performances may result may earn a spot in the zonal teams. For someone who has played 40 Tests for India, winning State-level titles and regional selections do not generally hold much allure.

"Playing with the Indian National team was a different experience. I can't even describe it," Saha said. "[But] when I was not selected, I decided that I would play just for the enjoyment of it. During childhood, I came into cricket only because I enjoyed playing it. I will continue until that feeling remains."

Saha, however, is mindful that his role as a player doesn't take precedence over his job of a mentor. It reflected in how he was unwilling to be photographed after his team's splendid win over Saurashtra, and instead asked this correspondent to use pictures of his teammates.

"I left Bengal because there was some *jhamela* [mess], but even when I was there, I used to share my experience of international cricket, the knowledge and my own personal views with all players. I am doing the same with Tripura, maybe a bit more.

"The only goal I have now is to help Tripura. Like, I sometimes hold myself back from batting higher up. If there is someone who can get ahead in his career by scoring runs, and get selected for the Deodhar or Duleep Trophy, I allow them. Unless it is absolutely necessary, I don't bat up the order. That is my role – to take the team forward and help it play at a higher level so that players start thinking big and selectors also notice them."

Siddaramaiah launches co-branded AB-ArK health cards

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao distributing the health card in Belagavi on Wednesday.

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday launched the new co-branded Ayushman Bharat health cards renamed as Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) - Chief Minister's Arogya Karnataka in Belagavi.

The new health cards co-branded with the Centre and the State logos will have national portability. Beneficiaries covered under the health scheme can now also avail themselves of treatment in other States where the AB-PMJAY is adopted.

The new cards will also be linked with the National Health ID - Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) Identity number. This will help in preserving the medical records of beneficiaries and providing easy and effective treatment in other States too.

Speaking on the occasion, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said the Health Department has set a target of distributing health cards to 5.9 crore people within the next six months.

"The new cards have been integrated into the AB-PMJAY national portal and beneficiaries from the State can get treatment under the health card in other States where AB-PMJAY is being implemented," he said.

"While the State government is providing 66% of the total grant share of the scheme, the Union government is providing 34%. Under the scheme, families with BPL ration cards can get treatment worth ₹5 lakh per annum for one or more members of the family on a family floater basis. Karnataka is the first State to cover APL families also under the scheme. While the APL cardholder pays 70% of the treatment cost, the State government will bear 30%," he explained.

Health Department directs DHOs to seal 'fake' clinics

This follows the recent unearthing of a sex determination racket across Bengaluru, Mandya, and Mysuru districts

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In the wake of the recent unearthing of a sex determination racket across Bengaluru, Mandya, and Mysuru districts, the Health Department has directed District Health Officers (DHOs) to enforce the Karnataka Private Medical Establishments (KPME) Act more effectively and seal 'fake clinics'.

In a circular issued in this regard, State Health Commissioner Randeep D. has said officials have been directed to inspect all facilities and seal unauthorised hospitals, clinics, and diagnostic laboratories run by 'fake' doctors.

"According to the KPME Act, all private medical institutions should mandatorily get a KPME registration. It has been noticed that fake doctors who do not have the necessary qualifications are running clinics and laboratories illegally without registration. The number of fake clinics and doctors is on the rise. In this context, all district and taluk health officials have been directed to initiate appropriate action against such facilities and seal them," stated the circular.

A 2004 file photo shows activists protesting against sex determination in Bengaluru.

"According to Section 19 of the KPME Amendment Act, 2017, any person who establishes or runs an unregistered private medical institution is liable for imprisonment for a term of upto three years and a fine of ₹1 lakh. If any facility is found to be operating without registration, action will be taken to seal it till the case is settled. Patients admitted for treatment in such unregistered private medical institutions should be immediately transferred to other medical institutions and appropriate measures should be taken for the safety of the patients," said Mr. Randeep.

Sources said the centre that was allegedly used for scanning in the recent sex determination racket, was not registered under the KPME Act.

"Of the estimated 38,000 health facilities including diagnostic centres and laboratories in the State, around 34,000 have been registered under the KPME Act," an official in charge of registration added.

"Following the recent case, we are only reiterating that the KPME Act should be implemented more effectively to weed out quacks who are practising medicine on completion of some correspondence courses," the official added.

DSEL finds itself in a bind

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

A strange problem has besieged the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) over the grant of maternity leave to two newly-appointed graduate primary teachers. The case is expected to have repercussions for all prospective women employees of the State government.

The government issued a notification for the recruitment of 15,000 graduate primary teachers in March 2022 and 13,352 were appointed recently. Of them, the case of two teachers, both posted in Haveri district, has now caught the attention of the department.

One of them, appointed to the Bisilahalli Government Model Primary School, Byadgi taluk, was delivered of her second child this October 8 and reported for service on October 27.

Another teacher, appointed to the Government Higher Primary school in Balambidu village of Hanagal taluk, was delivered of her first child this September 26 and reported for service on October 31.

Both applied for maternity leave as soon as they reported to work.

However, the Deputy Director of the department (DDPI), Haveri district, has rejected the applications arguing that they were delivered of their children before joining service, and were not covered under maternity leave as per the rules and regulations of the Karnataka Civil Services and Rules (KCSR). Female members of the service are eligible for 180 days of maternity leave.

"These two teachers were delivered of their children before joining the service and are not covered by the maternity leave facility. According to the KCSR rules, leaves, salary, and other facilities will be available to any government employee after they join the service. The terms of service do not apply to events occurring prior to them joining. So, I have written to the Commissioner seeking proper guidance in this regard," said Suresh N. Huggi, DDPI, Haveri district.

Child care leave is also not applicable to these teachers as they are still on probation. They are not working presently and the department has been terming them "absent".

"Women who have been delivered of children are allowed to apply to the recruiting authority and join the service after a few months. But some opt for seniority and join the service, and then they claim maternity leave. There is no provision for this. These teachers who are absent for work, can legitimise the leave by giving a medical certificate. But they will not be paid for the term, but their service will be counted," said an official from the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms.

"A decision that will be taken in this case will have an impact on other departments as well. Appropriate action will be taken after checking how facilities can be provided to these teachers on a humanitarian basis. We are looking at the issue holistically and an appropriate decision will be taken in this regard," said B.B. Cauvery, Commissioner of School Education.

THE HINDU
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PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of my client **Smt. Shivamma.G.R W/o Late Shivanna** to bring to the notice of the general public that the Originals of Endorsement issued by BBMP dtd. 05-02-2023 vide No. AMS/SKRM/PR/69/91-92, in connection with allotment of shop and Notice issued by BBMP dtd. 11-01-2018 vide No. ARO(M) PE/812/17-18 is lost. on 01-01-2023 complaint lodged in this regard has been lodged by way of e-lost at Malleshwaram Police Station, Bengaluru.
If any person/s, find the lost documents, it is requested to handover the same to the undersigned within **07 days** to the undersigned. In case if it is found that any person is trying to misuse the said document, legal action will be taken against them.

M.S. SATISH, Advocate
No.5/1, 2nd Floor, SLN Mahal, 3rd Cross, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560003
Mobile : 9448306826
Date : 06-12-2023 Bangalore

Hg: 11.12.2023
BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - 2
4th Floor, Telephone House, Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru-560001
O.A. No.463/2020

BETWEEN
STATE BANK OF INDIA
Asset Recovery Management Branch (ARMB), 2nd Floor, A Block, BKG Complex, Mysore Bank Circle, Avenue Road, BANGALORE - 560009,
Now at #11/90, 3rd Floor, Near Old Shivaji Theatre, JC Road, Bengaluru - 560002
..... ***Applicant***

AND
Mr. Mohammed Javeed Abdul Rahiman
..... **Defendants**

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(Viii) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEEDURE) RULES 1993 BY PAPER PUBLICATION

DEFENDANT
Mr. Mohammed Javeed Abdul Rahiman
S/o late Abdul Rahiman
Aged about 51 years
ART compound, Gurukambla, Kinnikambla post, Mangalore Taluk
Dakshina Kannada, Pin: 574151

Whereas, the Applicant Has instituted an application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993, against the Defendants for recovery of sum of **Rs. 32,32,433=00/-** (Rupees Thirty two lakhs thirty two thousand four hundred and thirty three only) together with cost and other reliefs.

The above mentioned Defendant is therefore hereby directed to appear before this Tribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly authorized agent, in support of his/their defense to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on 11.12.2023 at 10.30 am (forenoon) as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.

Date: 7/12/2023

BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL
Sd/-
REGISTRAR I/C
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-2
BANGALORE 560 001

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20

The Tender called vide E-Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/73/2023 Dated:29-09-2023 (Item No.2) is CANCELLED and recalled as under :
E-Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/96/2023 Dated:01-12-2023

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Request for Proposal (RFP) for appointment of Authority Engineer for providing project management services for Construction of New Broad Gauge Line Track Between Kushtagi (excl.) (54.700) and Shahpur (excl.) (210.500) (155.800 km) Under Gadag (GDG) - Wadi (WD) New Line Project (257 Km) Including Signalling, Telecommunication & Electrical Works of Hubballi Division on South Western Railway through Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC). **(Tender Ref. No: PMS-GADAG-WADI-R)**	Rs. 24,93,56,460/-

Last date for submission of bids :
Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 22-12-2023
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/Works Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/541/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24
South Western Railway - SWR | @SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20

E-Tender Notice No.Y/E.29/2023-24/52 Dated: 27-11-2023.
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Description of work	Approx. Value
Supply and Provision of 22 No's. of Lifts and power supply arrangements over Mysuru Division.	Rs. 84,69,384/-

Last date for submission of bids :
Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 19-12-2023
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer Mysuru
PUB/538/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24
South Western Railway - SWR | @SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20

E-Tender Notice No.Y/E.29/2023-24/51 Dated: 25-11-2023.
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Description of work	Approx. Value
Supply and Provision of 22 No's. of Lifts and power supply arrangements over Mysuru Division.	Rs. 5,36,90,098/-

Last date for submission of bids :
Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 18-12-2023
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer Mysuru
PUB/536/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24
South Western Railway - SWR | @SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20

CORRIGENDUM 1 TO E-Tender Notice No. CN/10/2023 Dated: 13-11-2023
In the above mentioned Tender Notice (Tender No. 95235460) special eligibility criteria (Sl. No.7) has been changed and last date of submission has been extended from 05-12-2023 to 14-12-2023.
For details log on:www.ireps.gov.in
Chief Materials Manager/Construction Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/544/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24
South Western Railway - SWR | @SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20

E- Tender Notice No. 40/2023 Dated: 01-12-2023
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:
Description in Brief:- AMC for 5 Years for Crane mounted truck after 2 years warranty period. Please quote AMC year wise charges per No. with breakup clearly, Rate should be quoted as per table of NPV calculation for AMC
(Qty. 01 No.) Tender No. L8236748
Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 10:30 Hrs. on 30-12-2023
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Materials Manager Bengaluru
PUB/540/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24
South Western Railway - SWR | @SWRRLY | SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my Clients **(1) Mr. MUHEEB ULLA KHAN,** S/o. Late. Fazlur Rahman, AADHAAR: 3545 0352 2263. **(2). Mrs. RAZIA KHATOON,** W/o. Mr. Muheeb Ulla Khan, AADHAAR : 3508 2712 3898. Previously Both were Residing at No.1810, Bahar Manzil, 22nd Main, 41st Cross, Near Jain College, Jayanagar 9th Block, Bangalore South, Jayanagar East, Bangalore-560 069. Presently Both are Residing at No.30, 11th Cross, Mahaboob Khan Layout, Near HKBK Engineering College, Govindapura, Nagawara, Arabic College Post, Bangalore-560 045. Propose to PURCHASE below mentioned Schedule property from Present Property Owner Mr. MOHAMMED ISMAIL, S/o. Late. M. Abdul Khuddus, Residing at No.424/1, 14th Cross, Fathima Layout, Govindapura, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Main Road, Arabic College Post, Bangalore-560 045. AADHAAR: 7989 7590 6614. he is the absolute Owner of this below mentioned Property, Mr. MOHAMMED ISMAIL he is the owner Acquired the rights, title of the schedule Property.
If any Persons have any kind of objecting over Schedule Property for purchase may lodge their objections with the undersigned along with supporting documents within **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice failing which my clients shall presume that there are no objection and proceed with the sale Agreement / Sale deed transaction.

SCHEDULE:
ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of the Immovable Residential Property i.e., RCC Roofed Ground, First and Second Floor Building Constructed on the EASTERN PORTION of Site No.13, Formed out of Assessment No.27/1, New BBMP Khata No.27/1/13, Situated at **Shiva Matta Road, GOVINDAPURA VILLAGE, Nagawara Dhakle, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore,** Presently Comes Within the Jurisdiction of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, New BBMP Ward No.23, Bangalore. BOUNDED ON THE: **East by :** ROAD, **West by :** Remaining Portion of Same Site No.13, **North by :** ROAD, **South by :** Government Colony, MEASURING : East to West: 20+21 ½ = 41 ½ /2 = 20.75" and NORTH to SOUTH: 36+40= 76/2 = 38'-0" Totally Measuring: 20.75" X 38= 788½ Square Feet. The SCHEDULE PROPERTY is Residential RCC Roofed Ground First and Second Floor House.

ROSHAN ZAMEER. BA,LL.B.
ADVOCATE
NOOR CHAND ASSOCIATES,
Office No. 2&3, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Main Road, Beside Savi Sagar Hotel, Govindpura Arabic College Post, Bangalore-560045
M : 9886831826,

ମୁଖ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ,
ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ମଣ୍ଡଳ, ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
(E-Mail:- serwbpr2004@yahoo.com ; Tel/FAX:- 0680-2404287)
At:-Ambapua, Po:-Engineering School Near Income Tax Office, Berhampur-760011

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Bid Identification No. Online Tender/83-2023-24/BPR

Identification No.	Name of work	No. of Works	Approx. Estimated Cost (In lakh)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion
Online Tender / 83-2023-24/ BPR	Bridge Works (BSY) for 2023-24	04 Nos	From Rs. 364.33 lakhs to Rs.650.93 lakhs	"A" Class or "Special" Class as applicable	11 (Eleven) & 18 (Eighteen) Calendar Month as provided

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding	
		From	To
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Berhampur.	Online Tender /83-2023-24/BPR	12.12.2023 at 10.00 A.M.	26.12.2023 upto 5.30 P.M.

(i) **EMD / Bid Security, Cost of Bid document is to be transferred through Online as per the procedure mentioned in the DTCN.**
(ii) **Non-submission of the information/documents through online by the bidder as per the items mentioned in the eligible criteria of the DTCN will also liable for rejection of his tender.**
Further details & Corrigendum if any can be seen from the website: - www.tendersodisha.gov.in
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Berhampur
O-1738 : OIPR-25071/11/0090/2324

ODISHA STATE MEDICAL CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of Odisha Undertaking)
(ASSURING QUALITY, SAVING LIVES)
Phone No.: (0674) 2380608, Website: www.osmcl.nic.in , E-mail: proc.osmcl.od@nic.in

Notification No. 11941/EQP-OSMCL/2023 Date : 06.12.2023

Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) for "Implementation of NAT testing facility covering 45 Blood Centres of the State of Odisha on PPP mode"

EOI No. OSMCL/NAT TESTING FACILITY PPP/2023-24/02

Expression of Interest (EOI) in prescribed sealed format are invited by the Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd (OSMCL) from Prospective Bidders for **"Implementation of NAT testing facility covering 45 Blood Centres of the State of Odisha on PPP mode"**. The same can be downloaded from the "Tenders" section of OSMCL's official website, i.e. **http://osmcl.nic.in** free of cost.

The Sealed Eols must reach the below mentioned address by not later than **5:00 PM of 21st December, 2023 through Speed Post or Registered Post or Courier Only-**
Managing Director, Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd.
Convent Square, Odisha, Bhubaneswar-751007
Ph. No.: (0674) 2380660/ 2380950
Website: www.osmcl.nic.in; E-Mail: proc.osmcl.od@nic.in

The Sealed Eols will be opened on **21st December, 2023, 5.30 PM** in the Tender Hall of OSMCL, Bhubaneswar.

GM-Operation (Equipment), Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd.
Regd. Office : Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd., Convent Square, Bhubaneswar – 751007, Odisha
CAD-3173 OIPR-10112/11/0035/2324

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL
ASC CENTRE & COLLEGE
AGRAM - POST, BANGALORE-560007
Phone: 080 25550677 Website: www.apsasc.edu.in
Tender Notice

Sealed quotations are invited for **purchase of 25 to 30 seater school bus for Army Public School ASC Centre & College.** Tender Enquiry/Form (also uploaded on website www.apsasc.edu.in (procurement) for reference) to be collected from school office from 08 Dec 2023 to 14 Dec 2023 (1000hrs to 1300hrs). Last date to submit filled tender form is 15 Dec 2023 at 1130 AM.

Presiding Officer
For School Management

ODISHA STATE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD (OSAMB)
(A Statutory Organization of Govt. of Odisha)
Plot No.1800 (P), Baramunda, Post-Khandagiri, Near Indian Oil Petrol Pump, Bhubaneswar.
Ph.No.0674-2952410, Email: osamboard99@yahoo.com
No. - 01/Engg.79/2023-24 Dated - 23.05.2023

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR ENGAGEMENT OF STATE PSU / CENTRAL PSU / DEPARTMENTAL UNDER TAKING AS PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT FOR "CONSTRUCTION OF 80 NOS. GODOWN OF CAPACITY 200 MT AT DIFFERENT PACS / LAMPCS"

Engagement of State PSU / Central PSU / Departmental Under Taking as Project Management Consultant for **"Construction of 80 nos. Godown of Capacity 200 Mt at Different PACS / LAMPCS"**

The RFP documents covering the details of information, eligibility criteria, selection process and other terms & conditions can be downloaded from **https://osamb.odisha.gov.in** from **07.12.2023**. The last date for submitting the RFP documents along with processing fees of **Rs.11,800/-** (Rupees Eleven Thousand Eight hundred) only in shape of DD in favour of **"OSAMB"** payable at Bhubaneswar through regd / speed post is **28.12.2023 by 5.00 P.M.** The technical bids will be opened on **29.12.2023 at 11.00 A.M**. The date of opening of financial bids will be intimated subsequently. The Authority reserves the right to reject any / all proposals without assigning any reason thereof.

General Manager, OSAM Board, Bhubaneswar
CAD-3175: OIPR-01444/11/0014/2324

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS
Ramanagara Division, Ramanagara
No.A3(A)/BUD/Railway Barricade/APO/CR-41/2023-24 Dated: 29.11.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION

E-Tenders for the works in Kanakapura Range of Ramanagara Territorial Division for the year 2023-24 are invited through e-procurement portal (**https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**) on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka from competent firms for the following works subjected to terms and conditions of detailed tender notification.

Description of Work	Quantity	Amount (Rs. In Lakhs)
Construction of Elephant Proof Barricading work using used rails.	4.00 Km (4 Units)	628.00

(*Subject to release of funds from Govt.)
- Last date of receipt of tender through e-portal : **18/12/2023 upto 16:00 hrs.**
- If no contractors participate on **18/12/2023;** re-tender will held on **29/12/2023 upto 16:00 hrs.**
- No further notification will be published regarding Re-Tender.
- For more information contact the under signed office on working hours. Phone: **080-29912608.** e-mail ID: **dcfrmngr@gmail.com**

Sd/-
Deputy Conservator of Forests
Ramanagara Division, Ramanagara.
DIPR/CP/330/Manipal/2023-24

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Hubballi: 0836-2338600 • 2335700

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NIKHIL Raj Pandian, who had passed Class X under ICSE–Year 2023 with Reg.No. 1233559/120 and Unique ID.No.7904060, have my mother's name incorrectly spelt in my ICSE board certificate and marksheet. The correct spelling of her name is Aswini Kiruthika and should be considered so for all purposes as per certificate dated 27–Nov–2023 from Civil Court Judge.

I, YASEEN Khan Shabeena Babu Khan, D/o Babu Khan Sunikunta Babu, R/a Maruthi Extension, RP Layout, Malur-563130, Kolar District, Karnataka State, today camping at Bengaluru have changed my name to Yaseen Khan Sunikunta Babu vide affidavit dt: 05.12.2023 sworn before Notary S.I.Balaguru, B'lore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NITHIN Gowda Jagannath, R/a No: 280, 9th Main, 2nd Cross, Hanumanthnagar, Bengaluru - 560019 have changed my name to Nitin Gowda Jagannath vide affidavit dt: 05.12.2023 sworn before Notary Smt.A.Manjula, B'luru

I, MANOJ Pichi Muthu S/o Pichi Muthu, R/a No.38/2, 1st Cross, Chinnappa Garden, Benson Town, Bangalore-560046 have changed my name to Antony Gilbert vide affidavit dt: 05.12.2023 sworn before Notary L.Gopalakrishna, B'lore

I, BENOY Varikalathil Mathew, S/o Mathews Varikalathil Mathew, R/o No.F-52, SNN Raj Grandeur, Kodichikkanahalli Main road, Next to Shahi Exports, Bommanahalli Bangalore-560068 have changed my name to Benoy Mathew vide affidavit dt: 05.12.2023 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, B'luru

LEGAL NOTICE

In the court of **Shri Brijesh Kumar Garg, District Judge (Commercial Court-01), Room No.301, Third Floor, New Court Building, Shahdara, Karkardooma, Court, Delhi.**
Case Reg. No.: CS(COMM) No.- 633/2022
PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT (Order 5, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)

SH. SHRIYANS JAIN ..... Plaintiff
Against
SMT. GANGA BAI..... Defendant

To,
SMT. GANGA BAI **Defendant**
Proprietor M/s Palak Fabrics
104, Shop No. 24 & 25,
1st Floor, R.B., D.G.T.C. (JBR) Plaza
Mamulpeet, Bangalore

Also At:-
SMT. GANGA BAI
No. 16, 2nd Floor, M.V. Tower
Sultanpet, Main Road, Sultanpet
Bangalore-560053, Urban Karnataka

WHEREAS you are intentionally evading service of summons it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the **20.12.2023** the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court, this **24-11-2023**.

District Judge (Commercial Court-01)
Shardara District Karkardooma Court, Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

It is informed to the General Public as well as all the departments of Central and State Government that I, namely Hasnain Tayyeb Ashraf S/o Tayyeb Ashraf Jeelani, aged about 35 years, residing at number 55, P 23, Jeelani Panjatan Estate, Thanisandra Main Road, Bellahalli Cross, Yelahanka Post, Yelahanka, Bengaluru -560064, do hereby declare that I am also known Syed Hasnain Tayyeb Ashraf Jeelani, thereby the both name i.e., Hasnain Tayyeb Ashraf and Syed Hasnain Tayyeb Ashraf Jeelani is one and the same and refers to me only vide Affidavit dated 28th November 2023 sworn before Notary Mr. S.I. Balaguru, Government of India at Bengaluru.

Who is responsible for farming's impact on the environment?

Large areas in India are used to service the international demand for grains, fruits, and vegetables, putting pressure on soil and water resources. At the same time, India's vast consumer market means large amounts of land, even outside its borders, are used to satisfy domestic demand

Manan Bhan

The ever-increasing demand for agricultural products is leading to significant social and environmental consequences worldwide. The expansion of international trade has created global supply chains, directly linking consumers to geographically-distant impacts, including carbon emissions, biodiversity loss, freshwater depletion, soil degradation and labour-rights issues - all of which have local, regional, and global relevance.

Due to its vast size and consumer market, India is a global anchor of the trade in agricultural products. It has also undergone remarkable social and economic development over the last several decades. This has led to an increasing demand as well as supply of these products.

Large land areas in India are used to service the international demand for grains, fruits, and vegetables, among other products, which puts pressure on national soil and water resources. At the same time, India's vast consumer market means that large amounts of land, even outside its borders, are used to satisfy domestic demand.

A view of a vegetable market in Barcelona, March 2, 2017. JACOPO MAIA/UNSPLASH

Food-based impact accounting

The expansion of such imports has contributed to increasing the environmental pressure in the exporting countries. Recent studies have shown that a substantial share of the total ecological impact is due to the displacement of environmental damage through international trade.

Tackling these demand-supply dynamics is now a key aspect of international environmental governance and represents a great challenge in achieving the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals and other climate action and biodiversity conservation goals.The current paradigm in measuring impacts and allocating responsibility is based on a production-based accounting method: it measures impacts in the place where the products are produced.

There are concerns about its limitations in managing 'leaks', fixing accountability, and ensuring equity and justice among producers and consumers.

One alternative that has emerged is consumption-based accounting.

Consumption-based accounting

Consumption-based accounting accounts for impact at the point of consumption, attributing all the social and environmental impact that occurred during production and trade to the final products and to the eventual consumers. That is, the approach urges the consumer (whether social groups or countries) to accept responsibility for the embodied or 'virtual' impacts of the product that is being consumed.

This approach has become prominent thanks to growing concerns around the divide between countries that are producers and those that are consumers, leading to a high degree of international co-dependence. The approach has also sparked calls to adopt sustainable consumption practices as a form of environmental action.

This has important implications for the coverage of impacts and to determine who has the primary responsibility to act.

What is demand perspective?

From a demand perspective, the basis for this approach is straightforward: since the pressure on natural and human resources is largely the direct result of consumption practices in developed economies, the responsibility for any consequences due to the production process should fall on those consumers as well.

This also reflects arguments of equity and justice surrounding the issue of historical responsibility. Studies suggest that developing economies like India have contributed only 23% of global cumulative emissions and are responsible for about 20-40% of the global average temperature rise since the preindustrial era. So the approach acts to further decouple population and emissions by shifting substantial impacts from emerging markets like India to the much-less-populous economically developed countries.

A consumption-based approach thus highlights the responsibility of industrialised states to mitigate impact and the rights of developing economies to not carry an excessive burden. This is an extension of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities that make up global climate governance.

This approach also accounts for a growing element of international trade: the existence of trilateral supply chains, where products are produced in one country, processed in a second country, and consumed in a third country. By tracing the flow of intermediate and final products through a global supply chain, it can establish links between where the product is eventually consumed and where its environmental impact is manifesting.

What is the supply perspective?

From a supply perspective, the proponents of consumption-based accounting claim that it can encourage cleaner production since producer countries are implicitly encouraged to implement strategies that lower the environmental footprint of their exports.

> A consumption-based approach highlights the responsibility of industrialised states to mitigate impact and the rights of developing economies to not carry an excessive burden

They also have an incentive to raise the living standards of actors in agricultural supply chains to safeguard their access to foreign markets.

The approach can also go a long way to fix 'leaks' in production systems, where production is often taken to jurisdictions that are relatively lenient about production standards (including India).

Benefits of environmental action?

The application of this approach to estimate carbon emissions, in the form of embodied emissions, and water use, in the form of virtual water, has also been around in the scientific literature for some time, but has only recently made inroads into policymaking.

For example, the European Commission recently initiated steps to ensure products consumed in the European Union have not contributed to deforestation in their country of origin. This measure is expected to significantly reduce carbon emissions from deforestation as well as biodiversity loss, since the European Union is a major consumer of agricultural and forestry products.

Even from a consumption-based accounting perspective, India finds itself in a unique position.

Currently, major developed economies have an environmental footprint in India because of their consumption of Indian agricultural produce.

Conversely, India's own deforestation footprint outside its borders has increased over the last two decades and is rapidly growing, even if it remains below that of several G-20 countries on a per-capita basis.

If the environmental impacts of our consumption are outside our borders, it is easy to not consider them at all since they are not "our problem".

But the impacts abroad are an outcome of our demand, so we should be accepting a part of the responsibility.

Fair impact attribution

Since consumption-based emissions-accounting can identify the consequences of domestic and foreign demand for agricultural products, it may also be able to facilitate an agreement on global environmental action based on producers and consumers sharing responsibilities.

Current agreements are hampered by a lack of agreement on the historical and current role of developed and developing economies in the climate, pollution, and biodiversity loss crises.

Having developed economies take responsibility for some of the impact presents an opportunity for coordinated action, while allowing developing economies like India the space to grow and improve their agricultural systems.

Finally, consumption-based accounting is not easy to implement thanks to liability, monitoring and compliance concerns, but it is useful, especially as a tool with which to voluntarily diagnose impact-intensive consumption patterns.

The approach can be applied domestically as well, since it helps shift focus from producers to consumers, and encourages individual and collective changes in consumption behaviour.

(Manan Bhan is Fellow in Residence, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Bengaluru.)

A "mega-fire" spreading near the village of Lefkimmi, near Alexandroupoli, northern Greece in July this year. AFP

Climate change is making the world sick

Reuters

Heat stress. Lung damage from wildfire smoke. The spread of disease-carrying mosquitoes into new regions as temperatures rise.

These are just some ways public health has been compromised by climate change - a focus for the first time ever at the annual U.N. climate summit COP28. Government ministers are expected to discuss ways they can protect people from climate-driven health threats, which now threaten to undo decades of progress in public health.

From 2030, experts expect that malnutrition, malaria and dengue, diarrhoea, and heat stress will push global death tolls up by 250,000 per year, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Mosquitoes that carry viruses including dengue, malaria, West Nile, and Zika are shifting into new parts of the world as warmer temperatures and heavy rains create more hospitable conditions for them to breed.

Reported dengue cases have grown from around half a million in 2000 to more than 5 million in 2019, according to the WHO.

Climate change is also having an unpredictable impact on malaria, with 5 million more cases registered in 2022

After decades of progress against cholera, an intestinal infection spread by contaminated food and water, cases are rising again, including in countries that had all but extirpated the disease

than the previous year, the WHO's World Malaria Report found.

Floods in Pakistan last year, for example, led to a 400% increase in malaria cases in the country, the report said. The disease has also spread into the highlands of Africa that previously had been too cold for mosquitoes.

Similarly, after decades of progress against cholera, an intestinal infection spread by contaminated food and water, case numbers are rising again, including in countries that had all but extirpated the disease.

In 2022, 25% more countries reported cholera cases over 2021, according to the WHO, which noted the role played by cyclones, floods, and drought in cutting off access to clean water and helping bacteria thrive.

Diarrhoea also receives a boost from climate change, via increasingly erratic rainfall. It's the world's second leading cause of death among children under 5, claiming the lives of more than half a million kids every year.

Heat stress is projected to impact hundreds of millions of people as temperatures continue to climb through the next few decades.

With the world already about 1.1 degrees C warmer than the average pre-industrial temperature, people in 2022 experienced about 86 days on average of dangerously high temperatures, a report from the *The Lancet* medical journal found.

If the world warms by 2 C above pre-industrial levels, the report said, yearly heat deaths could more than quadruple.

The heat has also made forests drier, fuelling extreme wildfires that have swept across large swathes of the world in recent years.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

How well do you know India's lakes?

Radhika Santhanam

QUESTION 1

A weed-infested, dying lake in the 1990s, X was restored by the efforts of the State government. In 2022, the State's Chief Minister shared photos of the lake calling it "India's best kept secret." This is the largest coastal lagoon in India. Name the lake and the State.

QUESTION 2

The name of X Lake in English stands for "lake lake". The famous songs 'Yeh chand sa roshan chehra', starring Sharmila Tagore and Shammi Kapoor, and 'Chup ke se sun', with Preity Zinta and Hrithik Roshan, were shot here. Which lake is this?

QUESTION 3

This lake is famous for its phums, or densely packed floating masses of soil, vegetation, and organic matter. On the lake lies a floating national park that is also the last refuge of the endangered sangai. Which lake is this, situated in a State that has been hit by violence since May?

QUESTION 4

This lake in Himachal Pradesh is a reservoir formed by the Bhakra Dam. It is named in honour of the tenth Sikh guru. Name the reservoir.

QUESTION 5

This heart-shaped lake was built by Ibrahim Quli Qutb Shah. It has a standing Buddha right in the middle. Name it.

Answers to November 30 quiz:

1. Quantum mechanics interpretation rooted in ideas of Bohr and Heisenberg – **Ans: Copenhagen interpretation**

2. American physicist who proposed many-worlds interpretation – **Ans: Hugh Everett**

3. Interpretation that's a form of quantum Bayesianism – **Ans: QBism**

4. Co-developer of pilot wave theory with Communist affiliations – **Ans: David Bohm**

5. Interpretation designed for quantum cosmology – **Ans: Consistent histories**

Visual: **Erwin Schrödinger**

First contact: Samir Gupta | Yash Shukla | Settem Anjaneyulu

Answers to December 1 quiz

1. Light from screens affecting skin health by potentially causing ageing – **Ans: Blue light**
2. Recommended duration of breaks from screens to prevent eye strain – **Ans: 20 s break every 20-30 m**
3. Fear of being without a mobile phone or being unable to use it – **Ans: Nomophobia**
4. Condition caused by extended periods of device use – **Ans: Forward head posture**
5. Sleep hormone affected by screen light emitted – **Ans: Melatonin**

Visual: **Smartphone pinky/finger**

First contact: Raj

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Civil contracts: High Court censures govt.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Censuring the State government for causing a large number of litigations related to civil contracts across Karnataka, owing to a lack of clarity and confusion in policies and circulars issued in 2022, the High Court of Karnataka has advised the government to ensure that policies are not in conflict with each other and they should benefit the public at large.

The court made these observations on noticing conflicts in the parameters for awarding general contracts for civil works and those contracts for civil works entrusted under the Amritha Nagarothana scheme.

The litigations had the effect of stalling the works initiated for the public, the court observed.

Justice M.I. Arun passed the order on a batch of petitions filed by various taluk-level contractors' associations, led by the Hangal Taluk Civil Contractors' Association.

The petitioners had questioned the packaging of civil works to make the value of each tender over ₹1 crore. They contended that such packaging is contrary to a circular issued on May 11, 2022 to ensure that the tender value should be less than ₹1 crore to enable the participation of small contractors.

However, the court noted that the government had failed to inform the court, during an earlier round of litigation, that there were separate yardsticks for awarding tenders under the Amritha scheme and for general civil works.

The government earlier had not brought to the court's notice about the existence of Government Order (GO) of January 14, 2022, which was specifically applicable for Amritha scheme contracts, where the tender value has to be over ₹1 crore by clubbing various works, Justice Arun pointed out.

Holding that the circular of May, 2022, which was issued after a meeting of the Karnataka State Contractors' Association with the Chief Minister to help small contractors in general civil works, the court said that the mandate of the circular is not application to the tenders of the Amritha scheme, which is governed under a GO issued under the State's executive power.

While refusing to interfere with the different yardsticks for issuing tenders for civil works under the Amritha scheme and the general civil works, the court said: "The conduct of the State in the entire proceedings cannot be appreciated and requires censure."

BBMP elections: Former councillors question SEC

State Election Commissioner B. Basavaraju says that with the delimitation of wards over, the advocate representing the SEC will soon remind the court about the reservation matrix of wards

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

Bengaluru has been without an elected body for the past three-and-a-half years. FILE PHOTO

Former councillors are now questioning the State Election Commission (SEC) for not being pro-active in persuading the government and the High Court to conduct the much-delayed civic polls.

The city has been without an elected body for the past three-and-a-half years and the State government is keen to push it beyond the Lok Sabha elections, sources said.

Former city councillors, cutting across party lines, are on the same page and keen on early civic polls and now want the SEC to act decisively.

Abdul Wajid, former councillor from the Congress and a petitioner in the High Court of Karnataka seeking early polls, while maintaining that his party's government is interested in holding the elections, also said: "We hope that the SEC directs the State government to immediately hold elections to the civic body. In the present scenario delimitation of wards is completed and only reservation is pending. The SEC has all the powers to direct the State to take all necessary arrangements to hold polls at the earliest".

He added that since the matter was sub judice, the SEC should file an affidavit saying it was prepared to hold the polls and seek directions from the court to the government to complete the reservation matrix at the earliest.

> No elections can be held less than six months before the general elections. So that window seems to have closed and now the civic polls will likely be held only after that.
> **N.R. RAMESH,** Former BJP councillor

After the Congress government came to power, it withdrew the previous delimitation notification reducing the number of wards from 243 to 225. The Congress government issued new notification in September.

Another former councillor M. Shivaraju, another petitioner, said the SEC still had a window of opportunity to ensure elections in January.

N.R. Ramesh, former BJP councillor, said the SEC did not act immediately after the government notified the new delimited wards and now it was unlikely that the polls can be held before Lok Sabha elections. "No elections can be held less than six months before the general elections. So that window seems to have closed and now the civic polls will likely be held only after that," he said.

B. Basavaraju, State Election Commissioner, said that with the delimitation of wards completed, now the advocate representing the SEC will remind the court about the reservation matrix of wards soon.

When asked about filing an affidavit indicating the SEC was ready to hold polls in the city, he said there was no need for such action.

From Page One

Special court: CM's fiat to Home Secretary

The trials began only in 2022 owing to the pandemic and a host of petitions filed by the counsel of the accused, which the prosecution alleges delayed the process.

Of the 530 witnesses in Gauri Lankesh case, only 97 have been examined and among 143 witnesses in Kalburgi case only six have been examined till date.

The Chief Minister's note to the Home Secretary said Kalburgi's wife Umadevi and Gauri Lankesh's sister Kavita Lankesh had requested the State government to set up a special court for a fast-track trial in these cases.

"We are happy that the process to set up a special court to ensure a fast-rack trial has been initiated. We hope the special court is set up soon and the trial is concluded at the earliest. We have been waiting for six years for justice to be served, while the family of Kalburgi for eight years now," said Ms. Kavita.

A special court is likely to be set up in Bengaluru to try both the cases together, as they have common accused and the two murders were part of the same larger conspiracy and most of the accused are lodged in Parappana Agrahara Central Prison Complex in Bengaluru.

75 sportspersons to be trained for Paris Olympics

He also said that the government was reimbursing the tuition fee of medal winners at the national level. Educational fee up to ₹50,000 was being reimbursed to the medal winners at national level and participants at the international level.

The Minister also pointed out that sportspersons from the State, who had excelled at national and international level were being admitted to professional courses such as engineering, medical and so on under the sports quota in the common entrance test.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (December 7, Thursday), the following articles are available:

- Navigating the U.S.-China relationship **bit.ly/chinausarelations**
- Who's responsible for the environmental impact of what we eat? **bit.ly/consumptionagri**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, DEC. 07	
RISE	06:29 SET 17:53
RISE	01:27 SET 13:45
FRIDAY, DEC. 08	
RISE	06:29 SET 17:53
RISE	02:12 SET 14:20
SATURDAY, DEC. 09	
RISE	06:30 SET 17:54
RISE	03:00 SET 14:57

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	23
Mysuru	31	23
Bengaluru	31	19

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weaher will be dry.Morning will be pleasant. The weather will be slight warm and humid. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
27°C The weather will be comfortable but humid. Morning will be pleasant. Night also will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and hundershower.

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Tunnel mission

Tunnel Boring Machine Tunga achieved a breakthrough on Wednesday at Kadugondanahalli station near Arabic College after tunnelling 1,184.4 metres. With this, 18,832.3 metres (89.7%) out of the total 20,992 metres of tunnelling have been completed. Out of the nine TBMs deployed, seven have completed the tunnelling works in Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

HC to hear pleas on HSRP issue on Dec. 14

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government on Wednesday informed the High Court of Karnataka that the Transport Commissioner on December 1 held a meeting with the representatives of the HSRP Manufacturers' Association of India and various individual manufacturers of high-security registration plates (HSRP) on fixing HSRP to old vehicles registered in the State prior to April 1, 2019.

The government also submitted the proceedings of the meeting, in which the government had justified its decision of allowing fixation of HSRP to old vehicles by the vehicle manufacturers through their authorised dealers across the State. Meanwhile, the association has complained that the manner of implementation of the HSRP for old vehicles, is favouring only a few selected HSRP manufacturers who have good ties with vehicle manufacturers, and sought a stay of the August 17, 2023 notification for implementing the HSRP for old vehicles through the vehicle manufacturers.

A Division Bench, comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice Krishna S. Dixit, which is hearing the association's appeals filed by the government and the HSRP manufacturers on an interim order passed by a single judge, has said that it will hear the appeals on December 14.

Transwomen struggle to get benefits of Shakti scheme, say activists

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

"Transgender women are being discriminated against, based on the outfits they wear, with regard to the benefits of the Shakti scheme," noted members of the Karnataka Rajya Lingatva Mattu Laingikate Alpa Sankhyata Okkoota - Coalition for Convergence - a Statewide federation of sexual minorities.

"Transgender members can benefit from Shakti scheme only if they wear a sari. Those who wear shirts and trousers are being excluded by some conductors on buses," said Kavitha Krishnamurthy, a member of the coalition from Kolar.

She emphasised: "The public and the authorities should not judge us by our attire. A person's identity has nothing to do with an outfit."

The coalition which operates under the umbrella organisation Ondede celebrated its one-year anniversary on Wednesday

The organisation has conducted campaigns to support and bring justice to backward class members within sexual minorities.

The members also reported that the reach of government schemes for sexual minority communities has failed to reach to a large extent.

They also discussed the inter-sex community's fight for recognition and inclusion under the sexual minority group among other things.

Techie dies of injuries after crashing cycle into parked goods vehicle

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A techie who was riding a sports cycle died of injuries sustained in an accident early on Wednesday in HBR Layout. The deceased has been identified as Ramakrishnan, 51, a resident of HBR Layout.

On Wednesday at around 5.45 a.m., he was on his morning cycling trail, when he rammed into a goods vehicle parked on the Hennur-Nagawara Road. He suffered severe injuries to his face.

Though he was immediately rushed to a private hospital, he succumbed to his injuries, the police said.

The goods vehicle had a puncture and was parked on the road without the parking lights or any indication that it was there.

Since it was early morning, the visibility was also very low which may have added to the situation, the traffic police said.

The K.G. Halli Traffic police have now booked the driver for causing death due to negligence and seized the vehicle for further probe.

Sathya Sankaran, Bicycle Mayor of the city, said the accident only highlighted how unsafe Bengaluru roads were for cyclists.

"The traffic police and other motorists always talk of the lack of visibility of cycles on the streets and flag it as a problem. Haphazard parking of vehicles is a big problem, especially when the visibility is low," he said.

Real estate agent mowed down by bike

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A real estate agent who was crossing the road at the busy International Airport Road near Chikkajala was mowed down by a bike on Tuesday at around 7.30 p.m. The deceased has been identified as Asif, 56, a resident of Sanjaynagar.

According to the police, he was crossing the busy highway near Kadiganahalli Gate, a point that the Bengaluru Traffic Police have identified as an accident blackspot and have suggested a skywalk for pedestrian crossing.

Presently, many risk their lives and cross the busy expressway at this point everyday, jumping over the railings that separate the highway from the service roads on either side.

Asif suffered severe head injuries and was rushed to a private hospital. However, he succumbed to his injuries later in the day.

The Chikkajala Traffic Police have registered a case against the bike driver.

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
DEPARTMENT OF HINDU RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS
SRI DHARBARANYESWARA SWAMY DEVASTHANAM
LORD SRI SANEESWARA BAGHAWAN STHALAM
Thirunallar – 609 607, Karaikal District,
U.T. of Puducherry.

SRI SANEESWARA BAGHAWAN TRANSITS
(SANI PEYARCHI)
From MAGARAM (Capricorn) to KUMBAM (Aquarius)
On 20.12.2023 (Wednesday) at 05.20 PM

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2. Special Sahasranama Archana - Rs.300/-
3. Special Thila Soorna Neivethiya Aradhana - Rs.300/-
4. Ashtothra Archana for one Mandalam(48 days) - Rs.2400/-

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Phone: 04368-236530, 293936 , Email: eotemples@gmail.com ; sds.kkl@nic.in
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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Decline in coal imports during April-September

5 in percentage. During this period, India imported 125.21 million tonnes, the Coal and Power Minister said. He added that several measures have been taken to substitute coal imports. In 2022-23, coal production increased by 14.77% over the previous year. PTI

PACS that applied for retail petrol/diesel dealership

228 Cooperation Minister Amit Shah said that Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) can now operate LPG distributorships and petrol/diesel outlets. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has issued revised guidelines. PTI

Websites blocked for facilitating organised illegal investments

100 The websites that were blocked were also involved in task-based part-time job fraud. The Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre through its National Cybercrime Threat Analytics Unit had last week recommended this blockage. PTI

The worth of domestic electronics manufacturing in FY23

8.22 in ₹ lakh crore. Domestic electronics manufacturing increased over four-fold in the last 10 years, Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar informed the Lok Sabha. PTI

Increase in offences promoting enmity between groups

31.2 in percentage. More than 1,500 cases were registered, under IPC Section 153A which penalises promoting enmity between different groups, across India in 2022. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Navigating the U.S.-China relationship

What was the outcome of the summit between U.S. President Joe Biden and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping held on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation conference? Why does the status of Taiwan remain a contentious issue between the two superpowers?

EXPLAINER

Garimella Subramaniam

The story so far:
The U.S. President Joe Biden and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping held a summit, their second, in San Francisco on November 15, on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation conference. Their aim was to resurrect a bilateral relationship that is now at its lowest point since Washington and Beijing established diplomatic ties in 1979.

What did the meet accomplish?
The most consequential outcome was the decision to restore military-to-military communications between the two nuclear weapons states, critical to prevent potentially catastrophic miscalculations. The respective defence forces will now resume regular exchange of information under the Military Maritime Consultative Agreement that started in 1998. These channels were closed after Nancy Pelosi's (then Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives) controversial visit to Taiwan in August 2022, the first visit by a Speaker in 25 years. A self-ruled island state, Taiwan's status remains a bone of contention between the world's biggest superpowers, with China pursuing the goal of its reunification into the mainland. Under the "one-China" policy, Washington accepts Beijing as the only legitimate government of China and acknowledges, but does not endorse, Taiwan as part of that country, and provides concrete security guarantees under the Taiwan Relations Act. President Biden has on several occasions pledged that the U.S. would intervene if China attacked Taiwan.

Beijing condemned Ms. Pelosi's travel as constituting a serious violation of the status quo. President Xi, who has often asserted his resolve to reunify the island with the "motherland," warned his counterpart that Washington was "playing with fire". Beijing vented its ire by firing ballistic missiles off the Taiwan coast and conducted military drills as a deterrence exercise, even as Ms. Pelosi went ahead with her programme. More recently, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy received Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen in April in California, the highest American official to do so on U.S. soil.

Tense ties: Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Joe Biden at APEC meet on Nov. 15. REUTERS

Where does the trade dispute stand?
Amid this hostile political environment, businesses from the world's two biggest economies are having to navigate an equally volatile economic and trade policy framework. Within months of his ascent to the White House, President Biden issued an executive order in June 2021, blacklisting 59 defence and surveillance companies under the so-called "Chinese military-industrial complex". This is in addition to the Trump administration's blacklisting in 2019 of several Chinese Artificial Intelligence (AI) start-ups for alleged human rights abuses in Xinjiang.

More specifically, Washington and Beijing are leveraging their own areas of strength to inflict maximum damage on the other. A case in point is the sweeping controls the Biden administration enacted in October 2022, further extended in October 2023, on exports of advanced computer chips for the manufacture of semiconductors. The curbs bar U.S. and non-U.S. firms, whose products contain American technology, from supplying hardware and software to specific Chinese companies, besides prohibiting American citizens and firms from collaborating with Chinese chip makers, except under special permission. The rationale behind the export bans is to undercut Beijing's strides in AI and supercomputing, which have powered its supersonic and nuclear weapons capability, which Washington views as detrimental to its security interests. On top of the ban on tech exports comes the executive order Biden issued in August prohibiting U.S. investments in the high-tech arena.

China has hit back in kind, clamping a ban in July on gallium and germanium exports, raw materials used in the production of microchips and weapons systems. These are the items listed in the U.S. inventory of materials critical for economic and national security. Additionally, curbs were imposed in October on exports of various types of graphite, a vital mineral for the production of electric vehicle batteries, where China enjoys dominance in the global supply chain. The government further tightened its anti-espionage and data protection laws on the grounds of strengthening national security, forcing firms to designate "for China" digital tools, set up China specific email ids and hive-off country exclusive servers.

What is the way forward?
The escalation of the bilateral dispute was epitomised in the muscular approach that the U.S. adopted to shore up global hegemony during the Trump presidency and, conversely, China's quest for world military and technological supremacy that has crystallised under President Xi. The contours of this conflict have not fundamentally altered under President Biden's leadership. But a slight dose of realism seems to have been infused into navigating this complex relationship. There is in evidence a greater accent on exploring pragmatic avenues of coexistence through de-risking the two economies, rather than disengagement or 'decoupling'. This is a subtle but significant shift, and the only hope in the short term that the superpowers will climb down from their hard positions.

The writer is Director, Strategic Initiatives, AgnoShin Technologies.

THE GIST

- The most consequential outcome of the meet between the two countries was the decision to restore military-to-military communications between the two nuclear weapons states, critical to prevent potentially catastrophic miscalculations.
- Washington and Beijing are leveraging their own areas of strength to inflict maximum damage on the other.
- The escalation of the bilateral dispute was epitomised in the muscular approach that the U.S. adopted to shore up global hegemony during the Trump presidency and, conversely, China's quest for world military and technological supremacy that has crystallised under Mr. Xi.

The role of special inquiry committees of Parliament

Why is TMC MP Mahua Moitra facing an inquiry by the ethics committee of Parliament?

Rangarajan. R

The story so far:
The ethics committee of the Lok Sabha is believed to have recommended the expulsion of Trinamool Congress Member of Parliament (MP) Mahua Moitra from the Lok Sabha for her "unethical conduct" and "breach of privileges". This follows the ethics committee examining the complaints which accused her of asking questions to target a business house at the behest of a businessman in exchange for cash. She was also accused of sharing her log-in credentials with the businessman.

What is the role of ethics committee?
The ethics committee was constituted in 2000, to oversee the moral and ethical conduct of members and examine cases of 'unethical conduct' referred to it. The Committee examines complaints filed against members of the House by other members; outsiders through a member; or referred by the Speaker. The Committee makes a *prima facie* inquiry before deciding to examine a complaint and presents its report to the Speaker, who places it before the House for consideration. It must be noted that the term 'unethical' is not defined. It is left to the Committee to decide whether any act is unethical or not. In 2007, an MP accompanying his close female companion, impersonating her as his wife was considered 'unethical' by the Committee. It recommended suspension of the MP from 30 sittings of the House.

What are privileges committees?
The privileges committee or special inquiry committee examines the more serious accusations against a member. In 1951, a special committee found a member guilty of promoting a business interest by putting questions in return for financial benefits. It was again a special committee that inquired into the 'cash for query' scam of 2005 where 10 MPs of Lok Sabha were recommended for expulsion.

Is an expulsion constitutional?
The Constitution under Article 101 lists down the grounds for vacation of a seat by an MP. It includes voluntary resignation, disqualification and continuous absence from the House for 60 sittings. Expulsion is not mentioned explicitly in the Constitution. However, the Supreme Court has provided conflicting judgments in this regard. In *Raja Ram Pal versus Hon'ble Speaker* (2007), it upheld the power of Parliament to expel its members for breach of privilege by interpreting Article 101 to include expulsion as a ground.

But in *Amarinder Singh versus Special committee, Punjab Vidhan Sabha* (2010), the Supreme Court held expulsion by the State Assembly as unconstitutional. It held that such scenarios would frustrate the objectives of Parliamentary democracy.

How to reconcile privileges of the House and democratic representation?
The allegations of 'cash for query' against Mahua Moitra are serious in nature. However, can expulsion for such action be viewed as disproportionate punishment? Further, the citizens of the constituency would be left without a representative till next elections or a bye-election. The privileges of the House developed in medieval Britain to protect the House of Commons from an authoritarian King. It is important to preserve the dignity and privilege of the House. It is equally imperative, if not more in a modern democracy, to ensure that democratic representation is not prejudiced for political reasons. It must be noted that Parliamentary Committee proceedings are not as detailed as a judicial case that is conducted as per the Evidence Act. Even in this case, the ethics committee is believed to have recommended legal inquiry and the CBI has already registered a preliminary inquiry. It would be prudent to set up fast track courts to conduct trials for such cases in a time bound manner of say 60 days. If they are convicted in such a trial, it would result in their disqualification under the Representation of the People Act, 1951. Otherwise, they should continue to be a member of the House.

The writer is a former IAS officer and author of the book 'Polity Simplified'. Views expressed are personal.

THE GIST

- The ethics committee of the Lok Sabha is believed to have recommended the expulsion of Trinamool Congress Member of Parliament (MP) Mahua Moitra from the Lok Sabha for her "unethical conduct", "breach of privileges" and "contempt of the House".
- The Constitution under Article 101 lists down the grounds for vacation of a seat by an MP.
- The allegations of 'cash for query' against Mahua Moitra are serious in nature. However, can expulsion for such action be viewed as disproportionate punishment?

INBRIEF

'1,669 cases of encroachment of wakf properties in 4 years'

The government told the Legislative Council that 1,669 cases of encroachment of wakf properties had come to its notice in the State in the last four years. Replying to K. Abdul Jabbar during Question Hour, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda told the Council that the government had so far registered 3,720 cases under Section 54 of Wakf Act to remove encroachments.

Daily revenue of transport corporations up: Minister

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has been earning an average daily revenue of ₹12.57 crore since the introduction of Shakti scheme. In 2022-23, its daily revenue was at ₹9.21 crore, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy told the Legislative Council while replying to a starred question by K.S. Naveen during the Question Hour. The BMTC is earning an average daily revenue of ₹5.39 crore, NWKRTC ₹6.6 crore, and KKRTC ₹5.92 crore, he said.

Opposition members withdraw protest in Council

The Opposition members in the Council, who were demanding a commitment by the government for implementing the Seventh Pay Commission Report, continued their protest in the Well of the House when the session began on Wednesday. However, they withdrew it later after the Chairman of the House Basavaraj Horatti assured them that he would personally contact the Chief Minister and convey to him the demand of the members.

Bill to curb malpractice in recruitment exams approved

The Legislative Assembly approved the Karnataka Public Examination (Measures for Prevention of Corruption and Unfair Means in Recruitment) Bill, 2023. The statement of objects and reasons said: "This Bill has been proposed to provide for effective measures to prevent and curb the offences of leakage of question papers and use of unfair means at public examinations for the purpose of recruitment to any post under the State government, including autonomous bodies, authorities, boards, and corporations". "The new law has provisions of punishment up to 10 years and penalties up to ₹10 crore as well as attachment, confiscation of property," it said.

HC to examine maintainability of Yatnal's petition

Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, BJP MLA, on Wednesday moved the High Court of Karnataka questioning the legality of the State government's November 28 order of withdrawing sanction granted in 2019 to the CBI to probe the alleged ₹74.93 crore disproportionate assets case against Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar. Justice M. Nagaprasanna, before whom the petition came up for hearing, said the court has to first examine whether the petition is maintainable in law before the single judge or the petitioner has to approach the Division Bench by classifying the petition as a PIL, before going into the issues raised in the petition in the legality of withdrawal of the sanction/consent. The court said that it will hear the arguments on December 15.

Govt. defends CM's assurance on increasing allocation for minorities amidst bedlam and walkout by BJP

Ex-Minister questions Siddaramaiah's promise on financial grant for Muslims at a function when the session was under way

IN THE LEGISLATURE

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The government defended Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's assurance to gradually increase allocation to Minorities Department amid a walkout by the Opposition BJP in the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday.

Soon after the conclusion of Question Hour, former Minister V. Sunil Kumar raised the issue of Mr. Siddaramaiah's assurance to the department in Hubballi on Monday and questioned his promise on financial allocation to Muslims at a function when the legislature session was under way.

As several BJP members, including Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok, Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, Araga Jnanendra, S. Suresh Kumar, Ashwath Narayan, and others joined Mr. Sunil Kumar, a wordy duel ensued with the Congress members.

Opposition members leaving the Legislative Assembly at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Responding to the issue raised by the BJP members, Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs H.K. Patil said he was also present at the function in Hubballi. Mr. Patil said the Chief Minister had pointed out that the annual allocation to the Minorities Department, which was ₹4,000 crore at present, would be raised every year and the aim of the government was to increase the same to ₹10,000 crore per annum in future.

"Where is the breach of privilege of the House?" he questioned before finding fault with the BJP members for claiming that Mr. Siddaramaiah had already sanctioned ₹10,000 crore per annum to minorities.

However, Mr. Ashok said that he had also served as a Minister and had never made any announcements when the legislature was in session. Claiming that he had watched the video recording of Mr. Siddaramaiah's statement on television news, he demanded the Chief Minister withdraw the assurance.

While Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dinesh Gundu Rao said there was nothing objectionable in the assurance, Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Priyank Kharge pointed out that the sanction of funds to the department cannot happen without the matter figuring in the Budget that has to be presented in the Assembly.

The BJP members staged a walkout. While former Minister Basavaraj Rayaraddi and Congress member Appaji Gowda contended that BJP members had raised the issue before the start of Zero Hour after conclusion of Question Hour without seeking permission from the chair, Mr. Patil accused BJP of misusing the House to "spread fake news".

Taking serious exception to Mr. Ashok's statement in the House, Mr. Patil urged the Speaker to expunge the "lies" sought to be spread by the BJP members in the Assembly.

Somashekar refuses to walk out with BJP members

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Former Minister S.T. Somashekar's refusal to walk out with the BJP members over Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's reported assurance to the Minorities Department raised many eyebrows in the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday.

When the BJP members led by Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok walked out of the House, Mr. Somashekar was the only member of the BJP who stayed put.

The JD(S) members, including former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, remained in their seats too.

Minutes before the walkout, Mr. Ashok, in the midst of an animated exchange with the Congress on the issue, said the Opposition's 85 members had enough "strength" to take on the Congress in the Assembly. But, the JD(S) members neither joined the BJP in their wordy duel with the Congress nor participated in the walkout, raising questions over the proclaimed floor co-ordination between the two Opposition parties, who had forged ties to contest the Lok Sabha polls jointly.

Verbal clash between Cong. and Opposition over law and order

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The BJP raised the incident of stabbing of a party worker and that of a councillor being detained by police

The ruling Congress and the combined Opposition BJP and Janata Dal (Secular) had a verbal clash in Legislative Assembly on Wednesday over the law and order situation in the State.

The BJP raised the incident of stabbing of a party worker in Belagavi and another incident of a councillor being detained by the police while he was undergoing treatment in a hospital. They also pointed out the clash between police and advocates following the assault of the advocate in Chikkamagalur.

BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra raised the stabbing incident and criticised the police of filing First Information Report inappropriately. He accused the police of not taking the case seriously, and that appropriate provisions of IPC and Cr.PC were not added in the FIR.

While Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil informed the House that the Home Minister would respond later, the BJP members trooped into the Well in protest. Intervening, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah pointed out that the government had two days' time to respond to issues raised in the Zero Hour and urged the Opposition to withdraw the protest. Despite this, the Opposition continued its protest leading to adjournment. The protest was withdrawn after Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda assured the House that Home Minister G. Parameshwara would answer as soon as he arrives in Belagavi.

BJP members Abhay Patil and Basangouda Patil Yatnal raised the issue of Belagavi councillor Abhijit Jawalkar being arrested by the Tilakwadi police from a hospital against medical advice.

Seeking government intervention in the clash between the police and the advocates in Chikkamagalur, BJP member V. Sunil Kumar said it was a failure of the government to prevent protest by the police personnel.

State to credit ₹2,000 as partial drought relief to farmers from next week

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda told the Legislative Council on Wednesday that the government of Karnataka will begin crediting ₹2,000 as partial drought relief (compensation) to bank accounts of farmers from next week.

Replying to a question by N. Ravi Kumar during Question Hour, the Minister said that earlier Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had announced the partial compensation amount as a temporary relief.

The total loss due to crop damage in Karnataka because of drought has been estimated to be ₹35,162.05 crore. The State government has sought ₹18,171.44 crore from the Union government from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to provide relief to farmers.

Seven lakh fodder seed kits have been distributed to farmers to ensure fodder to cattle during the drought. The government released ₹20 crore to the Department of Animal Husbandry Dairying on September 22 for purchasing mini fodder kits. ₹894 crore is available with district administrations in Karnataka to take up relief measures under drought situation.

Not only Karnataka, but 12 States in India faced drought due to scarcity of rainfall during this year's monsoon, and 18 States faced drought due to shortage in North East monsoon.

Somanna inching closer to Congress?

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Former Minister V. Somanna, who is apparently disappointed with the recent political developments in the BJP, seems to be inching closer to Congress.

Sources in the Congress said Mr. Somanna is expected to join the party and likely to become its candidate for the Lok Sabha seat from Tumakuru constituency. The Lingayat leader on Wednesday visited Sri Siddaganga Mutt in Tumakuru to participate in a function. He met Home Minister G. Parameshwara.

Speaking to reporters, Mr. Parameshwara said: "Mr. Somanna has a bright political future. The party high command will decide on his entry to the Congress".

Cabinet to discuss scrapping Section 7D to prevent diversion of SC, ST funds

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The State Cabinet that is meeting in Belagavi on Thursday is likely to take a decision on scrapping provision Section 7D in the Karnataka Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan (Planning, Allocation, and Utilisation of Financial Resources) Act, 2013, that entails deemed expenditure.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had earlier announced that the deemed expenditure provision would be withdrawn as the allocation to SC/ST communities had been diverted citing the provision, and various factions of Dalit Sangharsha Samiti too had demanded withdrawal of the provision.

"In the last fiscal alone, the BJP government diverted ₹10,000 crore, misusing the deemed expenditure clause. In all, about ₹20,000 crore has been diverted in the last three years," sources said. The major diversions have taken place in water resources, minor irrigation, public works, and revenue departments.

Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (AR)
Room No. 612, 1st Gate, 6th Floor, M.S. Building, Bengaluru-560001.

No: DPAR(AR)/54/RIC/2023 Date: 05.12.2023

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from reputed firms for Providing 28 DEO's/ 4 Drivers and 8 Peons/ Attenders to Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (Administrative Reforms). The last date for uploading filled tender forms in e-procurement portal is : **13-12-2023 by 05.00 P.M.**

Details regarding terms and conditions are available at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
(G.Sudha),
Deputy Secretary to the Government,
Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms
(Administrative Reforms)

DIPR/CP/AAA/2426/2022-23

A.P. RAJIV SWAGRUHA CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Andhra Pradesh Undertaking)
DOOR No.5-21, HOSTEL ROAD, PRASADAMPADU, VIJAYAWADA-521108.

Online Auction Notification No.01/APRSCL/2022, Dated: 06-12-2023

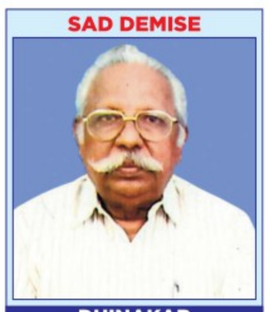
The APRSCL desires of calling bids for sale of open plots "on as is where is basis" in Yendada (V), Visakhapatnam (Rural), Visakhapatnam District, online auction conducted through M/s. MSTC Limited an undertaking of Government of India. **Auction of 20 open Plots with proposed upset price @ Rs.60,000/- per Sq.Yard, at Dolphin Cove "Where the Land meets the Sea", Yendada (V), Visakhapatnam, Visakhapatnam District.** Bid Registration from **07.12.2023** to **27.12.2023** till **05.00 PM** payment of EMD @ **Rs.5.00 Crores** per each plot. Auction will be on **28.12.2023**. Details can be download from 1. **www.mstcindia.co.in** 2. **www.mstcecommerce.com**

DIPR 2514PP/CL, Dt: 06-12-2023 Sd/- Managing Director, APRSCL, Vijayawada

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

SAD DEMISE



DHINAKAR C ASIRVATHAM (83yrs)
Retd. Senior Manager, SPIC – SMO
Left for his heavenly abode on 05th December 2023
Funeral Service on 08.12.2023 at 10 a.m. C.S.I House of Prayer, Adyar.
Deeply mourned by
Family & Friends
Ph: +91 99400 81896

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing , 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383. Website: www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-22/376/2022-23 Date:06.12.2023

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors holding valid Class-III & above (Civil) issued from KPWD, Government of Karnataka who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work of **Providing Road Safety items & Road Furniture for Hi-Tech Defense and Aerospace Park, 1st Phase at Devenahalli, Bengaluru Rural District.(2nd Call).**

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **15.12.2023 upto 04:30 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer - 1

DIPR/CP/JA/2441/2023-24

HUBLI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned by Govt. of Karnataka undertaking)
Company Office, Navanagar, Hubballi-580 025
Telephone No.: 08362223323 E-mail ID:civilkeb101@gmail.com
Website:hescom.karnataka.gov.in
Corporate Identity Number (CIN) : U31401KA2002SGC030437

No: HESCOM/SE(C)/AEEC/AEC/F-51/2023-24/CYS - 4680 Date:05-12-2023

Notification for Invitation of Tenders (Through KPPP Portal Only)

Superintending Engineer (Civil), Corporate Office, HESCOM, Hubballi has invited tenders for the Capital Civil Engineering works in Two cover system coming under the jurisdiction of O & M Zone Hubballi and Belagavi. The indent no of works are HESCOM/2023-24/BD/WORK_INDENT103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 113, 114, 116, 118, 119, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 132, 134, 136, 137, 138, 139, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 152, 154, 156, 157 and HESCOM/2023-24/OW WORK_INDENT112, 115, 117, 120, 121, 130, 131, 133, 135, 140, 158, 160, 161, 163.

The detailed notification regarding the bid enquiry can be obtained by logging on to the website https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 11.12.2023. For further information, please contact telephone no.0836-2223323 during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, (Civil),
Corporate Office,HESCOM, Hubballi

DIPR/Dwd/552/DeshpandePublicity/2023-24

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
(World Bank-Goods/Services)

Tender Reference No.E-Tender Notice No. 176 Date 05/12/2023

Municipal Corporation, Amritsar invites Bid for the following project funded from World Bank from the Eligible Bidders:-

S.N	Name of Work
1.	Compactors for storage for Modernization of Record Room in MC Amritsar

Closing Date and Time : 05.01.2024 upto 05:00 PM
Pre-Bid Meeting : 20.12.2023 at 11:00 AM
For Detail log onto : https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
Note : Any Corrigendum(s) to the tender notice shall be published on the above website only.

Superintending Engineer(C)
Municipal Corporation,
Amritsar

NA/12/20635/2023/30384

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala
Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813/Website: www.pspcl.in
(Contact number 96461-47777)

TENDER ENQUIRY No TSQ-1145

Dy. CE/TL(Design), B-1 Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender of 11kV B&S type disc insulators of size 70KN, 90KN & 160KN (42400Nos) as per relevant IS and PSPCL specification TSQ-1145/PSPCL/TD-I. For detailed NIT and Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 08.12.2023 at 11.00 AM onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

C-874/23 76155/12/2473/2023/30409

BIBLIOGRAPHY

In class: One of many low-cost non-government schools in Bangladesh with well-trained teachers who teach students with interactive lessons and joyful learning methods.

An experiment in education at grassroots level schools in Bangladesh

Swati Narayan travelled across four countries, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal, and found that even poorer neighbours were doing better than some States in India on a range of social indicators like health, education, nutrition and sanitation

Swati Narayan

In her book, Unequal: Why India Lags Behind Its Neighbours, academic and activist Swati Narayan argues that India is in the grip of "systemic and, at times, barbaric inequalities." As Narayan undertook a five-year study across four countries, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal, she found that even poorer neighbours were doing better than some Indian States on a range of social indicators like health, education, nutrition and sanitation. An excerpt:

Bangladeshi preschool teacher Shaheen was only twenty-six, but she was a dynamo, brimming with energy. Married at the age of fifteen, despite all odds, she'd completed her studies. Her preschool students were able to read better than even second-grade students we had met in nearby schools. Shaheen employed a range of innovative teaching aids, including picture cards and abacuses. She showed her students multiple picture cards and combined different words phonetically making it easier for them to grasp. Most importantly, her students understood the meaning of every word they read, not only in Bengali but in English too. She was using a learning method called the Kajoli Early Childhood Education Model.

This asbestos-roofed classroom with bamboo walls, virtually no ventilation and little sunlight, was buzzing with activity and joy. In Bangladesh, the government does not run pre-primary schools. Across the country, there are numerous such learning centres operated largely by NGOs, including BRAC (earlier called the Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee).

Most of them use different techniques of joyful learning. The Kajoli model is based on play and peer learning.

Collective financing

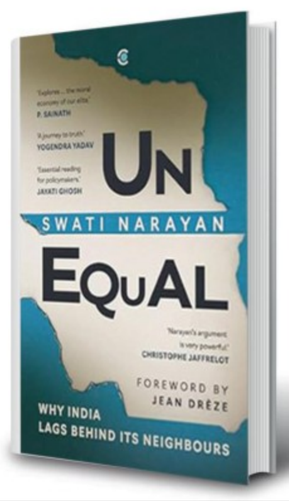
Shaheen's inspiring early childhood education centre was financed collectively. The mothers' committee of the village pooled money to pay her a modest honorarium. The school ran for only three hours a day, and the mothers brought 'khichuri' (a mixture of rice and lentils cooked together, often called 'hotchpotch' in Dhaka) by rotation for all the children to eat together.

The young teacher was ambitious about the future of her young students: 'You can't expect all five fingers of the hand to be the same. But I do hope that for some children who are intelligent, I am able to show them the right way. And for those who are laggards, it is my job to bring them ahead. A few days ago, I asked the children what their aspirations were. One girl wanted to be a female police officer and did dishum dushum [boxing moves]. Another wanted to be a doctor, the third a teacher. My students are so smart that the primary school teacher had to conduct a lottery to decide whom to give the most marks to, as she was flummoxed with their calibre.'

Creating readers

Most people are equally astonished when they see my survey results. Almost 90 per cent of the students in grade 5 whom we tested across twenty villages in Panchagarh were able to read at least a grade 2 level paragraph in Bengali. Even in Nepal, nearly two-thirds of the students we tested in grade 5 were equally competent. But in the two Bihar districts, less than half the students could read as fluently. These results for Bihar were nearly identical to those in the Annual Status of Education Report that the NGO Pratham has been preparing for the last decade in India. For the first time, with the same ASER tools, my survey tested children's learning levels across borders. The results were crystal clear – Bangladeshi children were strikingly ahead.

In Bihar, amongst the children we tested, those from more affluent families scored markedly better than those from poorer ones. Poorer children had less than half the learning competencies. This inequality is largely due to the additional money that wealthier families spend on private schools and private tuition. In contrast, family income did not influence learning levels in Nepal. Even better, the Bangladesh district had a high progressive ratio, with pupils from the poorest families turning out to be better learners than the wealthiest. Competent and dedicated teachers trained in joyful learning techniques, timely availability of textbooks, scholarships for poor and female students as well as the Bengali cultural emphasis on education are all important factors in Bangladesh's educational successes. In contrast, the repeated complaint of the parents we met in Bihar was that despite good intentions, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's 'Degree Lao, Naukri Pao' (Get a Degree, Get a Job) scheme to recruit local teachers en masse had boomeranged and worsened the quality of education. Many upper caste teachers with fake degrees had usurped these plum jobs but were obviously unable to teach in the classrooms.



Signs of decay

In school after school in Bihar, we noticed clear signs of decay. In one government school, we saw two teachers in crisp saris sitting behind wooden desks, side-by-side, in the same classroom. They were apparently trying to simultaneously teach two different grades of students who sat on the floor in rows in front of them. In another dimly lit classroom, possibly due to our presence, the teacher pretended to make the children 'read' in the darkness. Many students across schools also confided in us that their teachers beat them mercilessly, even though corporal punishment is strictly against the law.

In Bihar, we noticed that many children were officially enrolled in government schools, but did not attend classes. A recent 2023 post-pandemic survey by the Jan Jagran Shakti Sanghatan found that, in government primary schools in north Bihar, 'only 23% of children enrolled were present' and dismally concludes that 'schools in Bihar seem to be in danger of mass displacement by private coaching centres'. My survey also confirmed that 82 per cent of students enrolled in private schools and 44 per cent in government schools also went for several hours of private tuition.

On the other hand, in Bangladesh, on an average only 35 per cent and, in Nepal, only 29 per cent of students paid for extra tuitions. In fact, the draft Bangladeshi Education Act, that has been under debate for the last decade, proposes an absolute ban on all private coaching centres, private tuition and even on the publication of guidebooks.

Excerpted with permission from Westland Books

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz on aviation on the occasion of the International Civil Aviation Day (ICAD) observed every year on December 7

V. V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
Why was December 7 chosen as ICAD and when did the UN officially recognise the same?

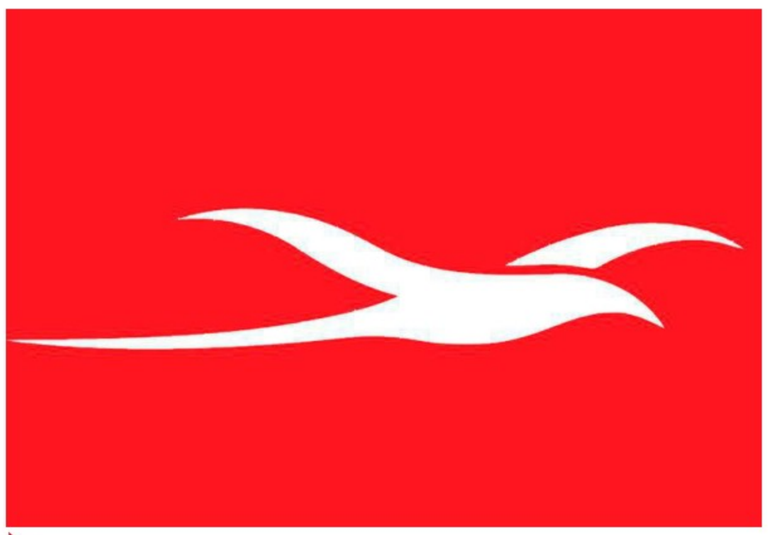
QUESTION 2
The world's longest nonstop flight, with a calculated distance of 15,349km, involves almost 19 hours of flying. What are the termini of the flight and which airlines operates the route?

QUESTION 3
What does the instruction 'arm doors and cross check' before take-off mean?

QUESTION 4
Name the second-oldest continuously operating airline that has had no fatal accidents so far in the last 103 years of flying.

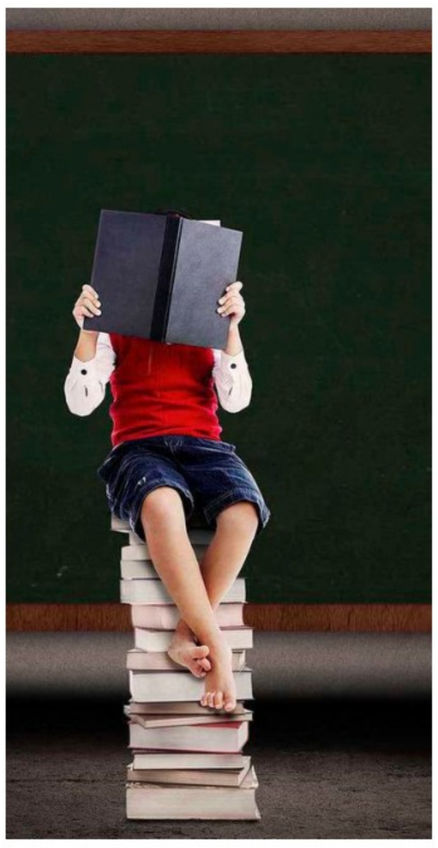
QUESTION 5
The Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport holds the record for the busiest airport in the world. In which 'Olympic host' city is it located?

QUESTION 6
One may have noticed runways being numbered. In what range are they numbered?



Visual question:
Which national carrier has this as part of its logo?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. In 1864, this city was inundated by a tropical cyclone. **Ans: Kolkata**
2. This 1970 cyclone struck East Pakistan and India's West Bengal. **Ans: Bhola cyclone**
3. Name the two cyclones that became the first ones to be given names by the Regional Specialised Meteorological Centre. **Ans: Cyclone Onil, Cyclone Agni**
4. This cyclone caused widespread damage in West Bengal, Odisha, and Bangladesh in May 2020. **Ans: Cyclone Amphan. It is the costliest cyclone ever recorded in the North Indian Ocean**
5. The only month of the year that has not been affected by a cyclone so far in India. **Ans: February**
Visual. Identify this disaster film. **Ans: Kathantara, a film about a cyclone which hit Odisha**
Early Birds: Nobody answered all the questions correctly



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Mr. B. C. Koshy, Block V, Neyveli, wants to know whether 'self-destruct' is acceptable."

"'Self-destruct' is a technical term meaning 'to destroy itself'. The missile will self-destruct in case of any mechanical trouble. It is also used as an adjective. It has a self-destruct device."

"Mr. S. Dhandapani. Sullivan Street, Coimbatore, wants to know the difference between 'don a uniform' and 'wear a uniform'."

" 'Don' is a formal word. It is from 'do on' which means 'to put on'. This word is not used in informal contexts. The opposite of 'don' is 'doff' which means 'to take off'. You doff your hat when you meet another. This is also a formal word."

"Mr. S. Ibrahim, APHB Colony, Bhongir, wants to know the meaning of 'senescence'."

"'Senescence' means 'the process of becoming old'. It is a formal/medical term.

He shows senescence even at the age of ten.

The first 'e' is pronounced like the 'i' in 'fit', the second 'e' like the 'a' in 'India'. 'Scence' is pronounced like 'sense'."

"Mr. S. A. Kabir, 13, Main Road, Annanagar, Madras, wants to know the difference between 'intuition' and 'premonition'."

" 'Intuition' is 'the power of understanding things immediately, without the need for conscious reasoning or study'.

He has intuition about things.

I have an intuition that he will be here tomorrow.

'Premonition' is 'an intuition of a future, usually unwelcome, occurrence; foreboding'.

He had the premonition that he would meet with an accident.

I had a premonition that it would be my last meeting with him."

"Ms. J. Kalyani, Ginjee, wants to know the meaning of 'true to his salt'."

"It means 'faithful to his employer'. 'Salt' here means 'salary'. The word 'salary' is originally from 'salt'.

You can trust him. He is true to his salt."

"Mr. Rammohan Maddur, Vijayalaxmi Street, Tirupati, wants to know the meaning of 'cloud-cuckoo-land'."

"It is an imaginary city built by birds in the sky. This is from one of the stories by Aristophanes. Any impractical, Utopian scheme Is called a cloud-cuckoo-land.

He is a dreamer. He is living in a cloud-cuckoo-land."

Published in The Hindu on April 24, 1990.

Word of the day

Bosky:
covered with or consisting of bushes or thickets

Synonym: brushy

Usage: *We walked through a bosky park.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/boskypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /'bɒski/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

A film that throws light on the connection between women and millets

Invisible: Women and the Future of Millets expands on this idea, draws a parallel between the resilience of these hardy little grains and the women who nurture them

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

It was on another assignment near Kolar that Arjun Swaminathan first met Rajamma. He recounts what the 65-year-old mother of a farmer who practised the Akkadi Saalu farming system, a mixed cropping system often found in the drylands of Karnataka, told him: the seeds that her son used today had been given to her at her wedding. "These were native organic seeds," he says, recalling how Rajamma explained how important it was to preserve them, abstaining from cooking them even during drought. "There were times when she went hungry, but these seeds were preserved," says the Bengaluru-based visual storyteller, the director of Native Picture.

The meeting got him thinking about women's crucial role in agriculture, not just the back-breaking tasks of de-weeding and harvesting but something more profound. "There is a culture preservation that happens through women," he says.

Stills from the film *Invisible: Women and the Future of Millets*. ARJUN SWAMINATHAN

Of women and millets

His new short film *Invisible: Women and the Future of Millets* expands on this idea, drawing a parallel between the resilience of these hardy little grains and the women who nurture them.

The film, which will be released on December 12 at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi, captures "the journey of millets from being a lost cause to a superfood, as well as the recognition of the labour put in by women farmers from all sections of the society - especially the marginalised communities," as Arjun, who travelled to the Eastern Ghat's Arakku Valley, Karnataka's Hubli district and Srikakulam in Andhra Pradesh to make this film, puts it.

The film opens with some interesting statistics- agriculture employs nearly 80% of rural women. "Empowering and mainstreaming rural women workforce in agriculture can help bring a paradigm shift towards economic growth," it states before delving into this inherent relationship between millets and women. With perspectives offered by a team of experts and, more importantly, the women who grow and live off the soil, the film delves into many aspects of millet: the effect of the Green Revolution on millet consumption, the nutritional benefits they offer, how millet seeds are preserved, traded and cultivated, the benefits of mixed cropping and female collectives, why India should spearhead the millet movement and so much more.

At its core, however, the film spotlights women's tremendous work to grow and process these millets and how this is often ignored in the mainstream narrative. "Historically, you did not have these big mills or processing centres. All processing happened in the village at the household level," points out activist and researcher Sudha Nagavarapu in the film, adding that while most of this strenuous work is done by women, they are often rendered invisible at a documentation level and denied many agricultural benefits. Arjun agrees. "Women have always been behind-the-scene workers in everything," he says, pointing out that equality cannot exist in a vacuum, something the film captures, too."

Invisible women

Produced by The Food and Land Use (FOLU) Coalition to mark the International Year of Millets, *Invisible: Women and the Future of Millets* offers a nuanced take on the grain, acknowledging its many benefits but also avoiding magnifying them. "We need to understand that not all of us can eat millet. They are grown in certain areas, and it is only in those areas that the consumption is fine," says Swaminathan, pointing out that seasonality, culture, aspirations, class and caste play a tremendous role in shaping the millet narrative in this country.

"It is not just about eating more millet. Food is extremely political, and awareness needs to be built around it," he believes. He adds that, in general, knowing where our food comes from is important because it creates a healthier, more conscious community. "All of our foods have stories behind them. There is nothing more fascinating than the history and culture of food."

Invisible: Women and the Future of Millets will be released at Juniper, India Habitat Centre in New Delhi on December 12. It will be available on YouTube after the official release.

Govt. of Karnataka announces support for C-CAMP at Bengaluru Tech Summit

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society, (KITS) and the Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Karnataka has announced a partnership with the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms or C-CAMP at the formal launch of Phase II of two of CCAMP-KTech flagship innovation programs, one in the agriculture domain and the other in the start-up acceleration for scale-up of Karnataka's rapidly growing biotech start-up community.

On December 1, at the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2023, Minister of IT, BT & Rural Development, Shri Priyank Kharge and Dr. Ekroop Caur, Principal Secretary, Department of Electronics, IT & BT, Govt of Karnataka launched the Agri Grand Challenge II with problem statements relevant in plant pest and disease mitigation, post-harvest loss, cash crops processing and dairy farming domains.

India is still largely an agrarian economy. Agri & allied sectors contribute 18% percentage of GDP to Indian economy. But critical gaps remain. C-CAMP K-tech Agri Centre of Excellence set up in 2018 is an effort in mitigating this. By nurturing cutting-edge agriculture solutions, it aims to usher in India's next Agri revolution through scientific solutions for problems at the grassroots. One of its initiatives is a Grand Challenge call for science-based solutions to address specific problem statements across agri & allied sectors. These problems are selected through thorough deep-dive field immersion and vetted by a nationally & globally represented expert core committee convened by the CoE.

C-CAMP Director-CEO Dr Taslimarif Saiyed said-,"With support from Govt of Karnataka, we will provide investment funding of up to 50 lakhs INR and more importantly, help with field trials through our vast network in agricultural sciences ecosystem. I invite agritech start-ups across India to join this effort."

The Social Struggle

The second half of the session was a conversation with Radhika Iyengar about her book, *Fire On The Ganges: Life Among the Dead in Banaras*

Meghnavi Ravuri
BENGALURU

Caste a light: Battle for Equality focused on the discussion of caste and equality in conversation with Manoj Mitta and Radhika Iyengar, moderated by Udayan Mitra. The session was split into two, with the moderator having a conversation with each author.

At each of the discussions, he focused on the genesis and various aspects of the book, both the authors' writing and research process and the context in which these books are situated.

Manoj Mitta's book titled *Caste Pride: Battles for Equality in Hindu India* focuses on the violence and impunity surrounding caste violence in the country. Mr. Mitta describes how the freedom struggle in India is commemorated in various ways, but often leaves out the caste or social struggle, "Unlike the political struggle, which ended in the freedom of our country in 1947, this social struggle did not end, and yet, we hardly pay much attention to it."

Radhika Iyengar reading an excerpt from her book *Fire on the Ganges*.

He explains how there is often a structural bias, from the police to the prosecuting agency to the trial court, "because, on the flimsiest of grounds, you would deny justice to victims of caste violence despite all the evidence that is there, despite the gravity of the offence," he says.

The second half of the session was a conversation with Radhika Iyengar about her book, *Fire On The Ganges: Life Among the Dead in Banaras.* The book speaks about the life of Doms or the caretakers of crematoriums. The book was based on her experiences of visiting Manikarnika Ghat in Varanasi and her interactions with the Dom families there.

At the session, Ms. Iyengar recounts an anecdote involving a child of a corpse burner, who remembers being told that he couldn't have a different future since "the son of a corpse burner can grow up to be nothing more than a cremator," she says, pointing out that this person went on to educate himself, changing this narrative. The discussion then veered towards caste mobility and the complexities associated with it. "Caste mobility is a right that's guaranteed to Indian citizens on paper now, courtesy of the constitution. But on the ground, it's more the exception than the rule," points out Ms. Iyengar.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 7, 1973

Basavalingappa also Resigns: Meeting with Urs in Delhi

New Delhi, Dec. 6: Falling in line with his colleagues in the Karnataka Cabinet, Mr. B. Basavalingappa, Minister for Municipal Administration, submitted his resignation to the State Chief Minister, Mr. Devaraj Urs, here to-day.

Mr. Basavalingappa handed over his resignation letter after a brief meeting with Mr. Urs as soon as the letter arrived from Bangalore and later told pressmen that he too had resigned to strengthen the hands of Urs.

With this, all the Cabinet colleagues of Mr. Urs have submitted their resignations.

32 Arrested in Bangalore for Defying Ban Order

Bangalore, Dec. 6: Thirty-two persons including two women, said to be supporters of the Municipal Administration Minister, Mr. Basavalingappa were taken into custody today at various points in
Bangalore when they tried to take out a procession defying the prohibitory order.

The police arrested them when they came in two batches shouting pro-Basavalingappa slogans. Barring this incident, the city was peaceful. The Bangalore University students Action Commitee has congratulated the Ministers of Karnataka, who have tendered their resignations, to meet the situation arising out of the recent controversy created by the reported observations of Mr. B. Basavalingappa on Kannada language and literature.

A day in Bengaluru set to music

Vats Iyengar of Rainburn, a progressive rock band in Bengaluru, talks about their latest album and the making of its video

Anurag Tagat

For Bengaluru's progressive rock band Rainburn, the concept always comes first and the music follows. Being traditionalist in the age of single releases to boost streaming numbers, the band's new album *Vignettes* is out now in full via Bandcamp and hit streaming platforms on December 1.

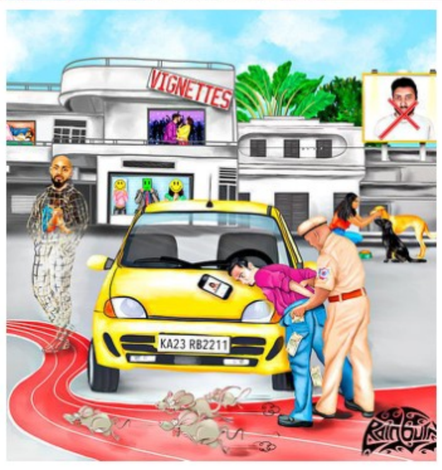
Founder Vats Iyengar, who also plays the guitar and bass as well as sang, composed and wrote the songs, says Rainburn albums always start with the theme first and then is broken down into different chapters. *Vignettes*, like its name suggests, became more a sonic equivalent of a collection of short stories rather than a novel.

"The writing always comes from an autobiographical point of view in some sense, so it's whichever topics resonate strongest with me or seem sufficiently rich to mine as a songwriter," Iyengar says.

The album journeys through a day in the life of anyone living in an urban Indian city.

"Big cities all around the world seem to be one big, faceless blob," Iyengar adds. Considering the band is based here, it is no surprise to hear Rainburn confirm that all the songs draw from a Bangalorean experience. He clarifies, "While this album is largely derived from life in Bengaluru, it's got a universal slant."

The prog rock stories on *Vignettes* range from internet culture-related issues, such as 'Outrage-Seeking Generation Z Brain' and 'Love Probably', to the corporate rat race ('Listen Through the Noise'), male gender stereotyping ('Identity'), sexual assault ('Party People') and police corruption ('Bad Cop/Bad Cop'). By the titles alone, one can guess that Rainburn, comprising Iyengar, drummer Neilroy Miranda and guitarist-composer Saakallya Biswas, keep their sense of irony sharp and dig into everyday issues without hesitation.



Holding up a mirror to life
Rainburn and the cover of their latest album *Vignettes*. SPECIAL EDITION

Where their previous album, *Insignify* from 2018 was more personal and inward looking, thus making it an intense experience to write for Iyengar, *Vignettes* was more outward looking. The vocalist-guitarist admits, however, 'Party People' was particularly difficult to write in terms of lyrics.

"Having never experienced sexual assault myself, it seemed a bit exploitative to pretend to be the victim in the story, so my main dilemma was who the narrator should be, an outraged observer, the assaulter or someone else. In the end I chose a cross between a sympathetic listener and a skeptic (of the "Why didn't she raise a hue and cry right away?" persuasion), which is how I think a lot of third parties tend to be in this situation." Iyengar adds, "I'm not proud to admit I've been that person myself."

So far, the band also released a music video for 'Outrage-Seeking Generation Z Brain', one that features the trio in all kinds of costumes as they poke fun at internet virality and social justice, among other issues.

"I've always liked music videos that aren't too on-the-nose with the song's subject. Having made the song title as explicit as possible, there was an extra obligation to find a different dimension with the visual. I think we largely succeeded in conveying that," Iyengar says with a laugh.

From The Joker to basketball players and wizards, it is a downright bizarre but eye-catching look for Rainburn in the video, which features the band's fans figuratively getting glued to their phone screens.

Iyengar points out that guitarist Biswas had it the easiest sourcing costumes, while drummer Miranda was set to look like a member of rock legends Kiss until he found out he needed to shave his beard to look the part, so he decided instead to become a black metal musician.

The frontman adds, "I was supposed to be Spiderman but we couldn't find a costume my size, so I had to be Superman. I only realized later that it meant a lot to some people because two of my characters (The Joker and Superman) are from DC Comics, so I've been asked more than once already if I'm more into DC than Marvel. The truth is, I'm not heavily into either."

The addition of these two members is new for Iyengar, who had a wholly different lineup for their previous releases. He likens their 2018 album *Insignify* to be "almost like a solo album" while acknowledging the "excellent musicians" who were part of the record.

"*Vignettes* is far more collaborative and I can't describe how much easier it was to make this record because I didn't have to do all the heavy lifting myself. This time I left a lot of stuff empty and incomplete (no drums whatsoever, for example, or a missing bridge), and could rely on Neil and Riju to help finish the song."

Hear/buy Vignettes on rainburn.bandcamp.com

CITYBEATS

Go nuts

UNTIL DECEMBER 17
To commemorate the Kadlekai Parishe, Bengaluru's popular groundnut fair, Oota is hosting the Oota Kadalekai Parishe Festival. The a la carte menu has been curated by chefs Mandaar Sukhtankar and Dinesh Poojary. It features six groundnut dishes - from snacks to salads.
At Oota, Whitefield. Contact 88802 33322.

Motivation in Marathi

DECEMBER 10
Swayam Talks, a platform from Maharashtra, extends its reach to Bengaluru. The event will feature Marathi speakers across diverse fields. Supported by Maharashtra Mandal Bangalore, Mitramandal Bangalore, Bangalore Marathi, and Marathi Pratishthan, the program aims to inspire positive change.
At New Horizon College of Engineering.

Winter's wonders

ONGOING
Embrace winter at The Kind Roastery & Brewroom with a curated selection of soul-warming dishes. Indulge in the season's spirit with delights such as apple cinnamon crumble loaf, rosemary ice cream, strawberries and cream brioche, Christmas yule log and jolly strawberry cheesecake.
At The Kind Roastery & Brewroom, JP Nagar.

Celebrating Rajyotsava with Kannada literature

Sapna Book House is organising the launch of 68 books in Bengaluru, coinciding with the 68th year of Kannada Rajyotsava.

Nitin Shah, the Managing Director of Sapna Book House, speaking over a call from his bookstore in Gandhinagar, says, "Every year we release books as per the number of Karnataka Rajyotsava's years.

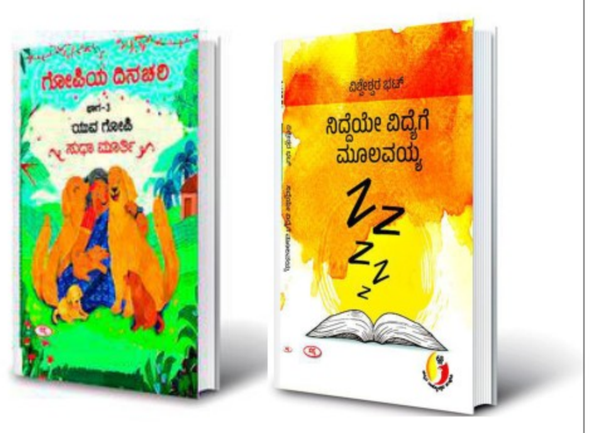
"This year we celebrate the 68th year of Rajyotsava, so we are releasing 68 books.

"All the books are in Kannada, which feature some of the best-known names in the Kannada literary world with a few first-time authors.

"The aim is to provide good reading options to book lovers and also celebrate Karnataka Rajyotsava through Kannada literature."

Nitin adds that Rajyotsava celebrations at Sapna Book House commenced in the beginning of November this year.

"We started with a book fair in the first week of November, which was followed by a Kavi Goshti (poetry session) in our showroom and now the release of 68 books. All this is aimed to showcase the culture of Karnataka through these writings."



Book lovers delight
Sixty-eight books for 68 years of Karnataka Rajyotsava. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

As many as 68 books by renowned authors as well as debut writers will be released this year

The 68 books, which will be released on December 9, will feature all genres of books by authors such as Dr DV Guruprasad, Vishveshwar Bhat, and Sri Jogi. "Apart from novels, there will also be books with critical essays, poetry, stories and more. The aim is to give equal mileage to all genres."

The event will feature guests such as Sudha Murthy, film director Yograj Bhat, Viresh Anandwamy from the Ramakrishna Vivekananda Mutt (Tumkur), Dr K Marulasiddappa, Sri Yogi and others.

All the 68 authors will be felicitated and their books will be on sale at a discounted rate with a book exhibition. The event, which is open to all, will be held at Gandhi Bhavan on December 9 between 10am to 1pm, and will feature light music.

Flavours of Ladakh

Prabalika M Borah

There is more to food from Ladakh than momos and *thukpa*. And no, the people of Ladakh do not live on Maggi. Their cuisine is vast, packed with intense flavours and usually devoid of the usual Indian spices. Chef Nilza Wangmo, from Ladakh, recognised for her culinary prowess and honoured with the Nari Shakti Puraskar by the President of India in 2019, is doing a three-state-pop (Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Chennai) to bust myths about Ladakhi food. The pop-up at The Park promises to be a delight for food lovers to get a taste of real food of the region.

Chef Nilza Wangmo owns an all-women restaurant - Alchi Kitchen in Ladakh. She promotes women's empowerment and introduces authentic Ladakhi cuisine to her visitors.

Alchi Kitchen, which Nilza opened in 2016 with her mother, lies in the shadow of a thousand-year-old monastery; it can serve 40 to 60 people at a time.

Nilza will introduce foods such as *khambir*, a fermented Ladakhi bread normally eaten with butter tea. She has tweaked the *khambir* by stuffing it with *seekh* kebab (with a vegetable stuffing for vegetarians). She also creates signature dishes such as *skyu* (similar to orecchiette pasta), a variety of *mok mok* (Ladakhi momos), and there is a saffron paneer variety for dessert. *Chantuk*, a type of Thukpa, apricot yogurt, yak cheesecake, the legendary *yarkhandi pulao* with apricots, *gyathuk* (noodles soup) are also on the menu.

In order to appease the younger generation, Nilza says, she prepares a few fusion dishes as well. She adds , "They are used to eating foods like pasta, rolls and common noodles. To be able to attract younger crowds, it is necessary to make dishes similar to what they enjoy. I, however, keep the ingredients authentic. We barely use refined flour. A lot of our food is prepared using buckwheat flour and I continue to use it too."

> I have had hands-on training since childhood, helping my mother and grandmother.
> **NILZA WANGMO**
> Chef

When they first opened Alchi Kitchen, they realised from the queue waiting outside that there was curiosity about the food of the region. Nilza credits her knowledge of cooking and knowledge of ingredients to her childhood she spent with her maternal grandmother and mother. "My father passed away early, so my mother and I went to live with my maternal grandparents. Growing up, I would see them take a keen interest in food and in the use and storage of ingredients. I was their little helper, so I have had hands-on training since childhood."

Operation Decode Ladakh
Chef Nilza Wangmo. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Elaborating on the kind of food she ate when she was growing up, Nalzi says barley was their staple grain, followed by buckwheat.

"Some breads are steamed such as the doughy *paba* bread. It is common and the main source of nutrition for the people of Ladakh. It is eaten with a *raita* made with *bathua saag*."

The Ladakhi cuisine pop-up will include hearty stews and soups as well as delicious dumplings and aromatic teas.

Nilza says Ladakhi food uses some dry cheese in their dishes as well as *chhurpi* for their teas; the Ladakhi *chhurpi* is slightly different from the Nepali version and the type made in the North-Eastern states of India.

Chef Nilza Wangmo will be in Bengaluru at The Park till December 10. For details contact 81474 79687.

Revanth to take oath as CM of Telangana today

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The stage is set for the swearing in of Anumula Revanth Reddy as the next Chief Minister of Telangana on Thursday. Mr. Reddy will take oath at 1.04 p.m. instead of 10.28 a.m. fixed earlier at the Lal Bahadur Stadium.

In a keenly fought election, the Congress trounced the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) by winning 64 seats and leaving the ruling party with just 39 seats.

The Congress Legislature Party leader himself extended an open invitation to the people, which he termed as 'People's government's oath-taking ceremony'.

"Greetings to the people of Telangana. The time has come for establishment of 'Indiramma Rajyam' to fulfil the aspirations of the people through the sacrifice of the martyrs, students' agitation and the firm determination of Ms. Sonia Gandhi," Mr. Reddy said in the invitation.

Heads of INDIA parties invited

NEW DELHI
The Congress has sent out invites to heads of all INDIA parties to the swearing-in ceremony of Telangana CM designate Revanth Reddy scheduled for Thursday. Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi will be attending the event. The Trinamool Congress will be present at the event. CPI General Secretary D. Raja has also confirmed his presence.

Curtail unnecessary expenditure: Siddaramaiah

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Directing the officials to ensure that drought relief announced by the State Government reaches farmers in a week, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday asked officials to curtail unnecessary expenditure and prepare a comprehensive estimate while formulating the tender document.

"Revised estimate is causing cost overruns for the projects," he lamented, adding that guidelines in this regard were in final stage of preparation.

"The departments should study the administrative reforms committee's report to improve non-tax revenues," he said, at a meeting of 65 top bureaucrats in the State here on Wednesday.

Stating that of the 143 announcements in the Budget, the Government Order has been issued for implementation of 83 and the others will be issued soon. He also directed officials to take steps to sort out the violation of court orders by various departments, and to address technical glitches in implementing guarantee schemes soon.

Farmers bear the brunt of Michaung havoc in A.P.

Preliminary estimates of losses prepared; restoration works taken up on a war footing in affected districts of Bapatla, Guntur, Krishna, Nellore, Tirupati, Vizianagaram and West Godavari

G.V.R. Subba Rao
VIJAYAWADA

In a mess: A damaged paddy field in Bapatla district of A.P. on Wednesday. K.V.S. GIRI

Cyclone Michaung has left a trail of loss, particularly for paddy farmers, in Andhra Pradesh. The State government is yet to assess the exact loss incurred by the farmers, though restoration works were taken up on a war footing in the cyclone-hit districts of Bapatla, Guntur, Krishna, Nellore, Tirupati, Vizianagaram and West Godavari on Wednesday. Officials have prepared preliminary estimates of the losses.

At a review meeting on the cyclone damage on Wednesday, Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy asked officials to extend support to the affected families with humanity and sympathy. The extent of financial support should be the same as we expect as victims, he said.

In Tirupati, the district administration has heightened the efforts over the last 48 hours on repair and restoration measures.

The National Highway-5 connecting Kolkata and Chennai suffered damage between Naidupeta and Tada as water from the Kalangi river flowed on to the road. Several 33-kV substations, 33-kV and 11-kV feeders, LT lines, power transformers and distribution transformers suffered extensive damage, affecting 11.53 lakh power services and 1.65 lakh agricultural services.

Power station hit

Two units of Sri Damodaram Sanjeevaiah Thermal Power Station at Krishnapatnam tripped due to an electrical problem and a coal feeding issue caused by the adverse weather. AP-SPDCL Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) K. Santosha Rao said 434 teams were sent to take up restoration works in Nellore, Tirupati and Kadapa circles, and that the extent of damages was estimated to be ₹12.02 crore. EPDCL CMD Prudhvi Tej pegged the damages in Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, Rajahmundry and Eluru circles at ₹1.28 crore. CPDCL CMD J. Padma Janardhana Reddy said the damages in Vijayawada, Guntur, CRDA and Ongole circles was approximately ₹1 crore.

Paddy on thousands of acres has been submerged across the Godavari region owing to incessant rain. In West Godavari district, crops on 16,000 hectares have been damaged. Officials have distributed essential commodities and paid ₹2,500 per family for those leaving the cyclone relief camps.

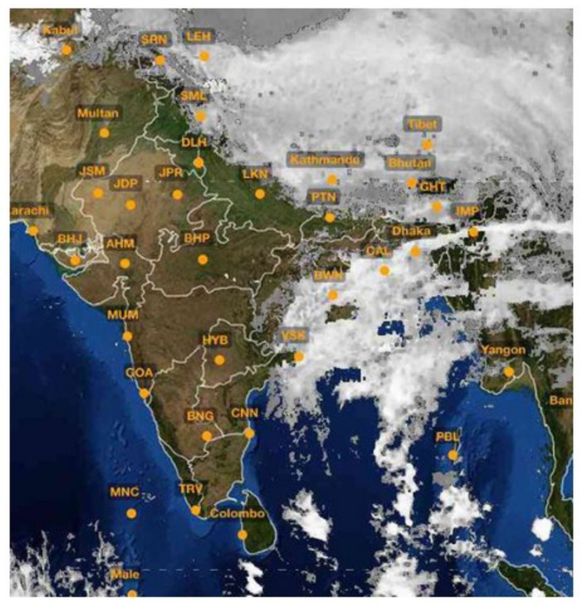
In the Konaseema region, paddy on over 16,000 acres has been partially submerged but much of the yield could be harvested. However, paddy on another 12,000 acres has been submerged and recovery of the yield is not guaranteed. In East Godavari district, paddy on over 24,000 acres is to be harvested once the fields get dry.

The cyclone wreaked havoc across the SPSR Nellore district, and caused losses of over ₹42 crore in property and road damage, under the R&B Department, property of municipal administration, irrigation tanks, Fisheries Department, and APSPDCL.

Nearly 25 mandals in Bapatla district recorded 20 cm of rain. Preliminary estimates revealed that standing crop was inundated on over 70,000 hectares in the district.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala, Mahe and Lakshadweep

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	26.4	21.8	Kozhikode	—	34.5	25.8
Ahmedabad	—	27.8	17.5	Kurnool	3	30.9	23.1
Aizawl	—	25.5	16.2	Lucknow	—	25.6	15.8
Allahabad	—	25.0	17.0	Madurai	—	35.0	24.1
Bengaluru	—	31.2	19.4	Mangaluru	—	33.2	23.5
Bhopal	—	23.9	16.5	Mumbai	—	33.1	23.3
Bhubaneswar	21.4	23.6	21.8	Mysuru	—	29.7	23.4
Chandigarh	—	26.9	11.2	New Delhi	—	26.4	9.2
Chennai	—	32.2	25.5	Patna	—	26.0	18.7
Coimbatore	—	33.8	22.4	Port Blair	6	26.9	25.2
Dehradun	—	26.8	9.6	Puducherry	—	32.4	26.2
Gangtok	—	16.6	10.1	Pune	—	27.1	19.8
Goa	—	33.6	23.6	Raipur	4	21.2	18.5
Guwahati	—	28.3	17.0	Ranchi	10	18.4	16.2
Hubballi	—	31.0	19.0	Shillong	—	19.2	9.5
Hyderabad	3.5	26.5	20.2	Shimla	—	17.4	7.0
Imphal	—	24.3	14.3	Srinagar	—	12.5	-2.0
Jaipur	—	25.0	12.8	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.9	24.6
Kochi	—	31.0	25.6	Tiruchi	—	34.9	24.4
Kohima	—	20.8	8.4	Vijayawada	81	27.4	22.6
Kolkata	0.1	26.5	21.6	Visakhapatnam	150	26.2	22.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	—	14	28	74	86	
Bengaluru	7	51	37	269	205	
Chennai	4	32	—	—	—	—
Delhi	8	105	60	325	272	
Hyderabad	9	30	32	66	77	
Kolkata	20	58	20	69	88	
Lucknow	9	40	65	147	133	
Mumbai	9	52	26	304	174	
Pune	128	208	110	245	136	
Visakhapatnam	13	40	33	30	33	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Begusarai, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 448 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 21

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Zilla Panchayath, Tumkur
Office of the Executive Engineer,
P.R.E. Division, Madhugiri
Tender Notification no:09/2023-24
Dated: 01.12.2023

Behalf of Governor of Karnataka, Tender for Various works under Various Head of accounts of P.R.E. Division, Madhugiri have been published in e portal. Registered and Eligible contractors may submit the bids within 08-12-2023 upto 16.00 pm through e-procurement website. For more details Contact Ph. 080-25501216, 080-25501227 or visit http:/www.eproc.Karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
P.R.E.D Division, Madhugiri

DIPR/TUM/339/KSMCA/2023-24

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.: SEE/Tr(W&M)C/MRB/EE(O)/AEE-1/T-64/23-24/5835-38 Date: 06.12.2023

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPPP mode only)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites tender for the following works:

(1) Tender No: KPTCL/2023-24/SS/Work_Indent228_Call-2. **Bid Enquiry No:** SEE/WMC/MRB/AEE-1/ 2023-24/16 Dt. 03.11.2023_Call-6 for "Providing additional 1x10MVA, 110/11kV Transformer at 110/11kV Bennur Sub-station in Karatagi Taluk, Koppal District including supply of equipment's/ materials, erection (including civil works), testing & commissioning on PTK basis (major materials such as Power Transformer, 11kV Switchgear will be supplied by KPTCL)".

(2) Tender No: KPTCL/2023-24/SS/Work_Indent233_Call-2. **Bid Enquiry No:** SEE/WMC/MRB/AEE-1/ 2023-24/17 Dt. 03.11.2023_Call-6 for "Providing additional 1x10 MVA, 110/11 kV Transformer at 110/11kV Yeradona sub-station in Karatagi Taluk, Koppal District including supply of equipment's / materials, erection (including civil works), testing & commissioning on PTK basis (major materials such as Power Transformer, 11kV Switchgear will be supplied by KPTCL)".

(3) Tender No: KPTCL/2023-24/SS/Work_Indent241_Call-2. **Bid Enquiry No:** SEE/WMC/MRB/AEE-1/2023-24/19 Dt. 03.11.2023_Call-2 for "Providing additional 1x10 MVA, 110/11kV Transformer at 110/11kV Sub-station Metri-Devalapura in Hosapete Taluk, Ballari District including supply of equipment's/ materials, erection (including civil works), testing & commissioning on PTK basis (major materials such as Power Transformer, 11kV Switchgear will be supplied by KPTCL)".

(4) Tender No: KPTCL/2023-24/SS/ Work_Indent240_Call-2. **Bid Enquiry No:** SEE/WMC/MRB/AEE-1/2023-24/18 Dt. 03.11.2023_Call-5 for "Enhancement of 2x12.5MVA, 66/11 KV Power Transformer by 2x20MVA and Providing 5 No's additional PCVCB switchgear at 66/11KV MUSS UP Halli in H.B.Halli Taluk, Vijayanagara District pertaining to TL&SS Division Munirabad, including supply of equipment's / materials, erection (including civil works), testing & commissioning on PTK basis (major materials such as Power Transformer, 11kV Switchgear will be supplied by KPTCL)".

Tenders will be received through KPPP mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the KPPP process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in/** on hyperlink "E-Procurement KPTCL" or directly logging on to website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 08.12.2023 at 11:00 Hrs.** Details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Ele, Tr.(W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Munirabad Ph: 08539-270094

e-mail: eephbhpt@gmail.com
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION, BHAWANIPATNA
Parmanandpur, Railway Station Road, Bhawanipatna, Dist: Kalahandi, PIN -766002

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Identification No.EEPH-BHPT– 17 of 2023-24/ Dt. 29.11.2023
e-Procurement Notice

Name of the Work: Procurement of DI pipe in connection with the work, "Improvement of water supply to Kesinga NAC under AMRUT-2 SWAP-2".
Total No. Of works: 03 (Three)
Estimated Cost: Approx. Rs. 222.50 Lakh
Class of Contactor: Manufacturer Only
Period of Completion: 3 Calendar Months

Procurement Officer.	Bid Identification No.	No. of works	Availability of Tender On-line for Bidding		Date & time of opening of Bid
			From	To	
2	3	3	4	5	6
Executive Engineer, P.H. Division, Bhawanipatna	EEPH-BHPT–17 of 2023-24/ Dt. 29.11.2023	01(One)	07.12.2023	21.12.2023	21.12.2023

For details can be seen from the Government website www.tendersorissa.gov.in
Executive Engineer
P.H. Division, Bhawanipatna
C-2023 OIPR-13059/11/0007/2324

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS
NEW DELHI

Office of The Special Land Acquisition Officer & Competent Authority, (N.H.A.I.)
Bangalore, No. 678/3, Neerubhavi Kempanna Layout, Hebbal, Bangalore - 560024.

LAQ/EXP-WAY/CR/102/2015-16 Dated: 04.12.2023

PUBLIC NOTICE
UNDER SECTION 3-G (3) & (4) of NATIONAL HIGHWAYS ACT 1956,

WHEREAS, the central Government declared that the lands specified in the following Schedule annexed to the said Notification in the villages of KGF Taluk, Kolar District of Karnataka, for the public purpose for Construction of Four Lane Bangalore Chennai Expressway from Ch. 71.000 to Ch. 96.000 in the state of Karnataka under Bharatmala Pariyojana on Hybrid Annuity mode (Phase-II/Package-I) in the district of Kolar in the State of Karnataka, has been acquired in exercise of the powers conferred by sub section (1) of Section 3D of the National Highways Act 1956 (48 of 1956) and published in the Government of India Gazette S.O. No. 4924 (E) Extraordinary No. 4715, Part II Section3, Sub-Section (ii) dated 14-11-2023 at pages 1 - 3.

In pursuance of sub-section 2 of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government declares that the lands specified in the said schedule annexed here to shall vest absolutely in the Central Government free from all encumbrances from the date of publication of 3D(1) Notification in Official Gazette of India.

All the persons interested (Owners of the land and other interested persons) in the lands specified in the following schedule shall appear in person or by agent, or by legal practitioner before the Special Land Acquisition Officer & Competent Authority, NHAI Bangalore, Hebbal, Bangalore on the dates, place and time specified below and submit claims and state nature of the representation/interest on such lands with relevant records as detailed below:
(1). E.C. for the last Thirteen years, (2). Sale / Partition deeds etc, (3). R.T.C. for the year 2023-24, (4). Tax Paid Receipts, (5). Mutation Extract, (6). Conversion Copy, (7). Receipts for having paid Development Charges obtained from concerned, (8). Approved Layout Plan, (9). Khatha Extract from the concerned, (10). Saguvali Chits in respect of lands granted from Government (11). Aadhar Card, (12) PAN Card, (13) Bank Account Pass book & (14) Other Documents.

Sl. No.	Name of the Mandal	Name of the Village	Date	Time	Venue for receiving the Applications & Documents.
1	KGF	Kadariganakuppa	13-12-2023	11:00 AM to 3:00 PM	Special Land Acquisition Officer & Competent Authority, NHAI Bangalore, 4th Main, 3rd Cross, Palasandra Layout, Kolar-563101.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling in the stretch of four lane Bangalore Chennai Expressway from Km 71.000 to Km 96.000 (Bethamangala to Baireddipalle Section) in the state of Karnataka under Bharatmala Pariyojana on hybrid Annuity Mode (Phase-II/Package-I) in the district of Kolar in the state of Karnataka. Please scan the QR codes below for details:

(Notification) (Public Notice)

District: Kolar
https://egazette.gov.in/
Publication date: 14.11.2023
Gazette ID: CG-DL-E-16112023-250069
https://egazette.gov.in/(S(t3fzb2pjurhadakjxefx2hh4))/ViewPDF.aspx
https://bhoomirashi.gov.in/auth/revamp/showfile.cshtml?TAB=bGFfVGhyZWVEX2ZpbGVz&fk=bm90aWZpY2F0aW9uX2Ik&fkid=NTE2NzQ=&EncHid=763735756&type_id=1

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client proposes to purchase Schedule 'B' Property and Schedule 'C' Property ("**Schedule Property**") from **M/s. PANTHERA AUGUST ESTATES PROJECTS LLP,** a limited liability partnership firm incorporated under the provisions of the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008, having its registered office at, No. 119, Krishvi Tierra, 3rd Main, 4th Cross, Defence Colony, Indiranagar, Bangalore 560038 **("Owner"),** and has entered into an Agreement to Sell dated 05.12.2023 with respect to the Schedule Property with the Owner.

The Owner represents that they are the absolute owner having a clear and marketable right, title and interest therein and apart from them there are no other person/s having any right or claim over the Schedule Property. The Owner further represents that, they have not mortgaged, created any lien or encumbered the Schedule Property or part thereof in any manner and that the Owner have not entered into any other agreement of sale/ development agreement/ memorandum of understanding/ arrangement *etc.*, with any person/s with regard to the Schedule Property.

If any person(s), entity, firm, institution (corporate or otherwise) has or claims any right, title, interest, pending litigation or demand of any nature in or upon the Schedule Property or any part thereof, the same may be brought to the notice of the undersigned in writing together with all details of the right, title, interest, claim, pending litigation or demand made together with supporting documents in respect of such claim/s within **7 (seven) days** from the date of this notice, failing which such claim shall be considered to have been waived and/or given up and my client shall be entitled to proceed and complete the transaction in respect of the Schedule Property. Objections and/or claims received after the expiry of the period stipulated above shall neither be entertained nor be binding on my client.

SCHEDULE A
(*Description of the Schedule A Property*)
All that piece and parcel of immovable property being land bearing Site No. 708, Municipal No. 708, PID No. 82-1-708, measuring East to West 45 Feet and North to South 93.5 Feet, totally measuring 4,207.5 Square Feet, situated in Binnamangala 1st Stage Extension, Bengaluru, and is bounded as follows:
East by : Property bearing No. 707;
West by : Property bearing No. 709;
North by : Property bearing No. 723; and
South by : 60 Feet Road.

SCHEDULE B
(*Description of the Schedule B Property*)
All that piece and parcel of immovable property being residential apartment unit bearing No. 3, having a super built-up area of 391.76 Square Meters (4217) square feet, situated on portion of second and third floor of the residential apartment building "Panthera RoofGardens", developed on land described in Schedule A hereunder, together with 2 car parking slot/s bearing Nos. 3 in the stilt area of the building, and exclusive right to usage of identified terrace space, along with proportionate share in the common areas of the building.

SCHEDULE C
(*Description of the Schedule C Property*)
1,261 square feet of undivided share, right, title and interest in land described in Schedule A.

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 07.12.2023

Abhinag S.
Advocate
Steerwell Chambers, No. 202, Level Two, Railway Parallel Road, Kumara Park East, Bengaluru – 560 001
Ph: +91 90081 75094

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(BALLARI THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919
No:KPCL/2023-24/PS/WORK_INDENT850/Call-2 Date: 01.12.2023

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement portal only)

Tender is invited in e-Procurement portal for **Design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection and Commissioning of side beam for Wagon tippler 5 at CHP BTPS.** Total Tender Amount: **Rs.3,50,20,000/-.** EMD: **Rs.5,26,000/-.** Tender documents may be downloaded from GoK e-Procurement website: **https//:kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Further details can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer (CHP) Mechanical-2, BTPS, KPCL, Kudathini- 583152, Ballari District. Contact Mobile Number +91 9448290759**

BANGALORE MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY
No.5, 2nd Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone: 080-22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com
No.: BMICAPA/CLU-03/27/2023-24/1304 Date:06.12.2023

PUBLIC NOTICE
[UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961]

Sri B.L.Chikkegowda S/o Late Gadi Ningegowda has applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from "Agriculture" Zone to "Residential" purpose under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961, pertaining Sy.No:369/4 Extent 01Acre-10Guntas of Belavadi Village, Kasaba Hobli, Srirangapatna Taluk, Mandya District. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following;

1. If this land is developed and layout formed, sites will be available at reasonable rates to middle income group and Economically weaker section.
2. At the time of carving and designing the Layout, there will be job opportunities to labours.
3. If this land is developed, then the surrounding area will also get developed.
4. If the planned development takes place, good road, Civic amenity sites and parks etc., will be available for General Public.

Objection, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from the publication of this notice. Any objection received after 15 days will not be considered.

Sd/-
Member Secretary,
BMICAPA, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/JA/2443/2023-24

Government of Karnataka
Office of The Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department, Mandya Division, Mandya, Phone: 08232-222363,
email:eerwsmdy@gmail.com
No:EE/RDW&SD/MDY/JJM TENDER23-24/2023-24/1620
Dated:02.12.2023

1.Short term Tender Notification NO-06/2023-24
(One & Two Cover System)- (e-procurement portal)

On behalf of Governor of karnataka, The E.E, R.D.W & S Division, Mandya invited tender for Providing FHTCs Works in Madduru Taluk in Mandya District from eligible bidders. **Pre-Bid Meeting Dt:11.12.2023 Time:11:00 AM (Place:O/O EE, RDWSD, Mandya),** Last Date & Time for Receipt of **Bids:13.12.2023 Time:05:00 PM**, Date & Time of Technical & Financial Bid Opening:**14.12.2023 Time: 05:05 PM**. Date & Time of Financial Bid **Opening: 21.12.2023 Time:11:00AM.** Amount Put to tender Maximum: Rs.76.28 Lakhs. More details can be obtained through e-procurement portal of Govt of karnataka **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or from this office during working hours.Phone No:08232-222363.

Sd/-Executive Engineer
Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Mandya

DIPR/AD-MDY/KSMCA/354/2023-24

Power to the people

Congress has an opportunity to show its governance model in Telangana

Anumula Revanth Reddy has traversed a long political distance to emerge as the Congress Chief Minister of India's youngest State, Telangana. Not restrained by ideological harnesses, fired up by burning ambition, and endowed with the capacity to work hard, Mr. Reddy and the Congress turned out to be a perfect fit for each other. Leaving behind his many past lives, including in the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh-affiliated Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad and the Telugu Desam Party, he arrived in the Congress, in 2017. His rise within the party has been as impressive as the rise of the Congress itself, and perhaps both are linked. The threat that Mr. Reddy posed to his chair was sensed early on by the outgoing Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), which partly explains how he landed up on the wrong side of the law in a sensational bribe for vote case. But nothing would break the momentum of Mr. Reddy. His relentless campaign against KCR endeared him to an expanding segment of voters who thought many in the Opposition camp were not being true to their roles. Mr. Reddy developed a good rapport with the central leadership of the Congress, and galvanised enough momentum for the party that other leaders had no option but to fall in line with him.

Having climbed the peak, fresh challenges begin for Mr. Reddy and the Congress. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has placed caste justice as a motif of his politics, and the party victory in Telangana is indeed built on a multi-caste, multi-religious social coalition. Congress leaders who have stayed with the party through bad times could justifiably feel aggrieved that a later entrant has come on top when the party won power. Of particular note is Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, who was Congress Legislature Party leader in the outgoing Assembly. A Dalit, who walked across the State in a successful mobilisation for the party, he has to be accommodated respectfully if the Congress wants to make its social justice plank meaningful and trusted by the masses. The party has 64 MLAs but only 17 can become Ministers besides the Chief Minister. The new government has to keep itself stable with the slim majority it has in the 119 strong Assembly. Considering all these factors, the Congress has made it clear that its Telangana government would not be a 'one man show'. The Congress has also promised to further embellish the array of welfare schemes in the State. The party's governance and political management in Telangana will also have a ripple effect in other States, particularly in Andhra Pradesh. Telangana presents a potentially rewarding challenge for Mr. Reddy and the Congress.

Creating certainty

Healthier inflows from GST offer policy makers the bandwidth to fix its flaws

The Goods and Services Tax (GST), which turns six and a half years old this month, has yielded almost ₹3.4 lakh crore through October and November. While revenues in October marked the second highest monthly collections, November's kitty is the third highest. Both these months also recorded accelerated revenue growth after a sequence of slowing upticks that culminated with September recording a 27-month trough of 10.2%. October's GST inflows were up 13.4% and November's by 15.1%, with revenues from domestic transactions up 20%, the highest in 14 months. Festive fervour surely bolstered last month's nearly ₹1.68 lakh crore of GST revenues, which were based on transactions in October, and that trend may persist this month as well on the back of anticipated last-minute Deepavali spending. Prior to this two-month spike, GST revenues had crossed ₹1.65 lakh crore on only three occasions, which were typically driven by year-end compliances. Now, the average monthly collection so far in 2023-24 stands at ₹1.66 lakh crore, and economists believe central GST receipts may surpass Budget estimates even if one factors in a relative slowdown in the final quarter of this year.

With revenues buoyant, in no small part due to tighter compliance and a crackdown on tax evaders, the government must consider resetting its ambitions and work towards making the GST a truly good and simple tax, as it was promised to be. At a recent industry interaction, responding to concerns about the manner in which a spate of GST demand notices and investigations have unfolded in recent months, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the GST is still at a stage of moving from "uncertainty to certainty" on some grounds and those aspects are being sorted out now. That certainty needs to be pursued at a broader level to provide genuine comfort to investors about India's tax regime being stable and predictable. For one, pending taxpayer appeals against central GST levies have risen by a quarter this year to hit nearly 15,000 cases by October and it is necessary that appellate tribunals cleared by the GST Council become operational at the earliest to unwind this pendency and set clear precedents for future tax treatment disputes. It is equally critical to lay down a road map to bring in excluded items such as petroleum and electricity into the GST framework as well as the rejig of its complicated multiple rate structure. With the general election ahead, some dithering on such reforms may be understandable, but the GST Council must not lose focus of the unfinished agenda and keep deliberating on its to-do list, so that these steps can be fast-tracked after the Lok Sabha election.

Lessons from the Assembly polls for the 2024 battle

Prasenjit Bose

is an economist and activist

Election results in the three Hindi heartland States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh are being widely celebrated in ruling circles as a resounding semi-final victory for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Prime Minister Narendra Modi termed it a "hat trick" and claimed it to be the harbinger of another "hat trick in 2024".

While the BJP's win in these three States is quite significant, historical evidence that the party which wins these three States goes on to win the Lok Sabha election is mixed. The BJP won the 2014 Lok Sabha election after its victory in the 2013 Assembly elections in these States, but it lost to the Congress in these States in 2018, yet won the 2019 Lok Sabha election. Two decades ago, Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee had launched the "India Shining" campaign after similar victories in the Assembly elections in 2003, only to lose the Lok Sabha elections in 2004.

So, there is certainly no "guarantee" of a BJP win here. Much will depend on how the Congress and other Opposition parties analyse the results and the lessons they draw from the defeat to strategise for 2024.

Many in the Opposition camp have, however, turned despondent because their expectations were raised by multiple exit polls predicting a smooth win for the Congress in Chhattisgarh and much closer contests in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. While most exit polls accurately predicted the Congress's impressive victory in Telangana, with even one getting the win by the Zoram People's Movement's (ZPM) win in Mizoram right, why did most exit polls fail to predict the outcomes in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan?

Results show different voting trends

The reason can be found in the different voting trends underlying the verdict in the various poll-bound States in 2023. In Telangana, there was an over 9% point swing away from the incumbent Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) compared to its vote share in 2018, which translated into a loss of over 20 lakh votes and 49 seats. The Congress increased its vote share by 11% points and gained 45 seats from 2018.

In Mizoram, the ZPM gained 19 seats more in 2023 than its 2018 tally to secure a majority with a 15% point swing in its favour. The incumbent Mizo National Front (MNF) lost 2.6% points in vote share and 16 seats compared to 2018, while the Congress lost over 9% points in vote share and four seats.

Compared to this, the incumbent Congress governments of Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh witnessed negative swings of 0.3% and 0.8%, respectively. This is why the anti-incumbency against the BRS regime in Telangana was clearly discernible, while that against the State governments of Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh was not very evident.

In Madhya Pradesh, where it was in the opposition, the Congress's vote share eroded by around 0.5% points. Such a small erosion in the Congress's vote share, however, translated into significant losses in Assembly seats across the three States.

That is because the BJP succeeded in increasing its vote shares by 7.6% points in Madhya Pradesh, 2.4% points in Rajasthan and a very significant 13.3% points in Chhattisgarh. Even in Telangana, where it finished third, the BJP's vote share increased by 7% points.

The BJP managed to attract more votes from smaller parties and independents than by denting the Congress's vote share. For instance, the vote share of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) eroded in Madhya Pradesh by 1.6% points, Rajasthan by 2.3% points, Chhattisgarh by 1.8% points and Telangana by 0.7% points. Similar declines can be seen in the vote share of other smaller parties and independents in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Telangana. This includes the Janta Congress Chhattisgarh (JCC) which had won five seats with a 7.6% vote share in 2018 in alliance with the BSP, but drew a blank in 2023.

Lok Sabha and Assembly vote share

Converting this round of Assembly polls into a prequel of the Lok Sabha election, with the Prime Minister leading the BJP's campaign and national issues dominating the electoral discourse rather than State-specific ones, helped the BJP in this endeavour. In Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, the BJP's vote shares both in the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections were considerably above its Assembly election vote shares in 2013 and 2018, respectively. The BJP's vote share in 2019 in these three States was 17%-19% higher than that of 2018. This is the so-called "Modi effect".

Conversely, the Congress's vote share has tended to be significantly lower in the Lok Sabha elections compared to the Assembly elections. The vote shares of Others/Independents, however, have fluctuated even more widely than that of the Congress. In the 2023 Assembly polls, while the Congress retained much of its electoral base in the three heartland States at the 2018 level, the BJP increased its vote shares significantly by squeezing the vote shares of Others/Independents in all three States to their lowest levels since 2013. This has been the key to the BJP's success.

> Much will depend on how the Congress and other Opposition parties analyse the results, and the lessons they draw from the defeat

Electoral goals for the Opposition

The Congress and the other Opposition parties can work on three strategic electoral goals before the Lok Sabha elections in order to prevent a repeat.

First, the Congress must try to consolidate its base in these three heartland States through an effective ideological campaign – not only on government schemes and electoral promises but also on a range of constitutional values that are now at stake. The effort should be to ensure that every section of the electorate that voted for the Congress in 2023 votes for it again in 2024.

Second, the Congress and other Opposition parties in the INDIA formation should finalise their seat sharing arrangements without further delay and formulate a common programme which can provide a progressive, socially just, equitable and substantive alternative to the policies of the present regime. Both the Congress as well as the stronger regional parties in INDIA ought to display a spirit of accommodation and unity of purpose, the absence of which was evident during the recent Assembly poll campaigns.

Finally, serious efforts must be made to further broaden the INDIA coalition by identifying and reaching out to more potential allies. The BSP's inclusion can certainly add value, given the recent Assembly poll experience. Outreach could also be made to smaller State-level parties for inclusion in State-specific INDIA blocs in order to take on the BJP's formidable electoral and propaganda machine.

Engagement with parties such as the ZPM, the Bharat Adivasi Party, the Gondwana Gantantra Party and others, that have made a mark in this round of Assembly elections, as also with similar parties in other States, is imperative. This can contribute to a diverse, motivated and grassroots-level coalition in the run-up to the national elections.

MP Index reduction under the NDA is flawed

Radhika Aggarwal

is a doctoral student at Faculty of Management Studies, University of Delhi

Vani S. Kulkarni

is Research Affiliate at the Population Studies Centre, University of Pennsylvania, U.S.

Raghav Gaiha

is Research Affiliate at the Population Studies Centre, University of Pennsylvania, U.S.

Samuel Johnson, a profound literary critic and essayist, wrote, "Poverty is a great enemy to human happiness; it certainly destroys liberty, and it makes some virtues impracticable, and others extremely difficult." In sharp contrast, conventional measures of poverty in terms of income are limited and narrowly focused on scarcity of resources to eke out a bare subsistence. But there is much more to poverty than a bare subsistence, as emphasised by Johnson and others.

Nobel Laurate Amartya Sen pioneered a rich, innovative and broader perspective on well-being, focusing on capabilities and functionings. While capabilities are abilities to do this or that in a free and fair environment, functionings reflect achievements. An ability to live a healthy life, for example, is not necessarily related to affluence as it could result in obesity and vulnerability to non-communicable diseases. Achievements such as being healthy, on the other hand, require a nourishing diet and physical exercise. Professor Sen has, however, resisted aggregation of concepts such as capabilities into an overall measure of well-being as he believes that each capability is important in itself.

The MPI story

Unfortunately, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) seized upon capabilities to construct an overall measure of human development with uniform weights of the three components: health, education and standard of living and their sub-indices. Following this methodology, NITI Aayog and the UNDP released recently a National Multidimensional Poverty Index/MPI: A Progress Review 2023, also replicated in the UNDP Report, Making Our Future: New Directions for Human Development in Asia and the Pacific, released on November 7, 2023 . Hence, these reports suffer from the same flaws as the UNDP human development index: aggregation with uniform weighting. But, the MPI story is further distorted, as elaborated on below.

Astonishingly, the MPI 2023 estimates show a near-halving of India's national MPI value and a decline from 24.85% to 14.96% between 2015-16 and 2019-21. This reduction of 9.89 percentage points implies that about 135.5 million people have exited poverty between 2015-16 and 2019-21. Besides, the intensity of poverty, which measures the average deprivation among the people living in multidimensional poverty, reduced from 47.14% to 44.39%.

But these estimates – especially the rapid reductions in MPI – cannot be taken at face value for various reasons. Indeed, these are misleading and ill-informed. First, the MPI relies upon National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 4 and 5, which are not detailed enough for its estimation. Moreover, NFHS 5 is blocked as its estimate of open defecation contradicted exaggerated official claim of its complete elimination. In fact, an eminent demographer, who led NFHS 5 was suspended. Intriguingly, while the survey was blocked for its alleged unreliability, NITI Aayog and the UNDP had no qualms about using it. Ideally, NFHS 4 and 5 should have been combined with the 75th Round of the NSS on household consumption expenditure. Unfortunately, this was abandoned too, as leaked poverty estimates indicated a rise.

What casts further doubts is the havoc caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020-21. Millions lost their livelihoods, thousands died in reverse migration and from a lack of access to vaccines and medical care. In fact, as a consequence of this epidemic, there was a huge economic shock from which the Indian economy has been struggling to recover. To illustrate, GDP growth has declined from 8% in 2015-16 to 3.78 % in 2019-20 and slumped -6.60 in 2020-21, as also per capita income. Not just bare subsistence turned into a daunting challenge for millions but, equally seriously, public funding for maintenance and expansion of health and education and social safety nets suffered an irreparable blow.

> The Multi dimensional Poverty Index exaggerates the National Democratic Alliance's success in fighting deprivation

Focus on covariates

Our recent analysis focuses on covariates of the MPI that include per capita state income, its square, share of criminals among State MPs, share of urban population, and health and education expenditure and unobserved state fixed effects (e.g., how progressive a State is). If we compare elasticities of MPI with respect to each covariate (i.e., proportionate change in MPI due to a proportionate change in a covariate such as State per capita income), the largest reduction in MPI is due to higher State per capita income. But since income decreased drastically, MPI spiked. The next in order of importance is urban location. A 1% increase in urban location results in a 0.90% increase in MPI. This is not surprising as rural-urban migration is associated with growth of slums and sub-human living conditions. However, reverse migration during COVID-19 may explain why the effect on MPI is less than proportionate. Both health care and education expenditure are associated with lower MPI – the elasticity of the latter is higher (in absolute value), implying that a 1% increase in the latter reduces MPI more than the same increase in the former. As State-level estimates suggest a decline in educational expenditure, a rise in MPI is likely. Although State-level health expenditure rose to combat COVID-19, it fell far short of what was needed. If the share of Members of Parliament with criminal cases in total State MPs exceeded 20%, the higher was the MPI. This is not surprising as criminal Members of the Legislative Assembly and MPs are notoriously corrupt and siphon-off funds allocated for social safety nets and area development programmes. Indeed, what is alarming is their rising share – 24% of the winners in the Lok Sabha election in 2004 had a criminal background; it rose to 30% in the 2009 general election, 34% in the 2014 election, and 43% in the 2019 election.

If we go by our estimates of MPI, the reduction between 2015 and 2019-21 is considerably lower than the official estimate: 4.7 percentage points compared with 9.89 percentage points. Our selective review of MPI estimates shows that poverty rose in India's most populous State, Uttar Pradesh, by over seven percentage points. Of the States that went to the elections in November (Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan and Telangana),we find that the MPI fell in Chhattisgarh (by over six percentage points), in Rajasthan (by two percentage points) and, most strikingly, in Madhya Pradesh (by about eight percentage points).

In conclusion, not only does the MPI exaggerate the NDA's success in fighting deprivation but also perhaps more seriously obfuscates conventional measures of it which may unravel a contradictory story of poverty.

The views are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

State of preparedness

Relief measures following the cyclone in Chennai need to be on a massive scale but what is happening is that it is proceeding at a snail's pace. The reasons? First, NGOs and voluntary organisations have not been roped in yet. The Corporation authorities should have done it on day-2. Second, TANGEDCO has been slow to restore power in many areas despite tree fall being minimal, unlike the Vardah cyclone of 2016. Long-term measures call or preparing a master plan involving experts in stormwater management. Foreign expertise must be sought.

A.V. Narayanan,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

For many in Chennai, it is a repeat experience of the havoc caused by cyclone Vardah. Every November or December, the citizens of Chennai worry about even moderate rain disrupting normal life considerably. Over the years, the governments of the two Dravidian majors have fallen short in their preparedness and response mechanisms to confront the relentless forces of nature.

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

We have been hearing for the past decade or more of cyclones of various names hitting Tamil Nadu. The aftermath is heavy flooding that lasts for days. We have also heard of the Netherlands having an advanced system for flood management with a good amount of money earmarked for the purpose. Why not take their expert advice?

P.M. Gopalan,
Mumbai

In Telangana

It is welcome that the Congress has recognised talent rather than seniority in nominating A. Revanth Reddy as the new Chief Minister of Telangana, and within 48 hours after the results were announced (Page 1, December 6). The Congress's new strategies after the series of debacles it has faced in State after State is commendable. Revanth Reddy's victory proves that there is no dearth of leaders in the party who will prove their mettle if the party gives them free hand.

Kshirasagara Balaji Rao,
Hyderabad

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

LOKNITI-CSDS SURVEY

MIZORAM » MADHYA PRADESH » RAJASTHAN » CHHATTISGARH » TELANGANA

How BJP worked to retain Madhya Pradesh?

A stronger voter base, perception of the BJP's performance at the Centre and State-level and carefully timed campaigns helped in the party's victory

Sanjay Kumar
Suhas Palshikar
Yatindra Singh Sisodia
Sandeep Shastri

Solid gain: Welfare schemes tailored for women seem to have translated as votes for the BJP. ANI

In Madhya Pradesh, the BJP was able to stave off the fatigue factor and seize the initiative from a combatant Congress on account of a carefully curated strategy. This strategy was clear in its choice of candidates, projection of leadership and projecting the welfare schemes of both the Central and State governments. If the 'double engine' *sarkar* advantage was evident in any State, it was visibly on display in Madhya Pradesh.

With a 7.5% rise in vote share, the BJP was able to secure over 70% of the seats in the State Assembly. With a mere fall in vote share of 0.5%, the Congress on the other hand lost over 40% of seats as compared to its performance in 2018 (Table 1). The Lokniti-CSDS Post Poll survey in Madhya Pradesh provides evidence of the factors that contributed to the victory of the BJP.

Evidently, the high level of satisfaction with both the Modi-led central government and the Chauhan-led State government worked to the advantage of the BJP. Seven of every ten voters were satisfied with the performance of the Central government while six of every ten expressed their satisfaction with the State government. The BJP began its campaign in Madhya Pradesh with a focus on the leadership of the Prime Minister and the collective leadership at the State level. As the campaign progressed, a minor change in strategy was evident. While they continued with the collective leadership template at the State level, Shivraj Singh Chauhan was much more a 'first among equals'. Further, committed support to the BJP was further buttressed by the popularity of both Prime Minister Modi and Chief Minister Chauhan.

In the case of the Congress too, the Chief Minister face of the party, Kamal Nath drew support from party supporters as did Rahul Gandhi. Yet, the party

The BJP's election campaign, too, focused on the right issues at key moments and also helped the party secure a decisive advantage.

appeared to peak too early in the campaign. It released its electoral promises too early in the day, giving an opportunity to the BJP to come up with a counter strategy. It may be useful to record that one-fourth of the respondents in the survey stated that they decided on whom to vote for in the last few days of the campaign and another four of every ten made this choice after the declaration of candidates.

The BJP drew larger support among these late decision-makers as compared to the Congress.

The welfare schemes implemented by the Central and State governments appeared to have led to greater support for the BJP. Those who benefitted from the welfare scheme for farmers tended to support the BJP. Similarly, the welfare schemes for women – Ladli Lakshmi and Ladli Behena schemes – also helped the BJP garner support. Those who benefitted from the two schemes were more likely to vote for the BJP.

The Lokniti-CSDS survey captures the demographic profile of the supporters of the BJP and the Congress. The BJP did extremely well among the younger voters. It had a seven-percentage point advantage among the less than 25-year-old voters and a fourteen percentage point advantage among those in the 26-to-35-year range. The gap between the two parties was smallest among the older voters with the BJP being merely six percentage points ahead. Six of every ten of those who had access to higher education voted for the BJP, giving the party a twenty-six-percentage point advantage over the Congress. The BJP had a fourteen-percentage point advantage over the Congress in urban areas.

Over two-thirds of the rich and over half the middle-class voters favoured the BJP (Table 2). In contrast, the Congress has only a marginal advantage among the poor. The BJP was able to secure higher levels of support across caste groups. The Congress was able to do better than the BJP only among Dalits, Tribals and Muslims (Table 3). It is possible to surmise that the BJP managed to win large support among the upper half of the social order, along with a chunk of voters from the lower half, while the Congress vote was concentrated among the lower half but that did not consolidate adequately in its favour. This skew contributed to the large difference in vote shares of the two parties.

The BJP's return to power in Madhya Pradesh was thus on account of the committed support it enjoyed among the voters, the perception of the work done by the Central and State governments as well as the welfare schemes that it had implemented. Its election campaign, too, focused on the right issues at key moments and also helped the party secure a decisive advantage.

Table 1: Performance of parties

Party	Seats won in 2023	Seats change over 2018	Vote (%) in 2023	Vote change over 2018
Congress	66	-48	40.4	-0.49
BJP	163	54	48.55	7.53
BSP	0	-2	3.4	-1.61
Others	1	-4	7.65	-5.43

Table 2: Vote by demographics (%)

	Voted for...	
	Congress	BJP
Up to 25 years	41	48
26-35 years	38	52
36-45 years	42	49
46-55 years	39	47
56 yers and above	40	47
Rural	41	46
Urban	37	55
Non-literate	44	40
Up to Primary	45	45
Up to Matric	38	52
Intermediate	38	50
Graduate and above	34	59
Poor	47	41
Lower	42	46
Middle	36	53
Rich	30	64

Table 3: Of castes and communities (%)

	Voted for...	
	Congress	BJP
Upper castes	21	74
OBCs	35	55
Dalits	45	33
Adivasis	51	39
Muslims	85	8

The role of castes and communities in vote share

Aadyot Prakash
Sanjay Kumar

Despite its rhetoric over the question of caste census, Congress failed to make a dent in the OBC vote. Thus, BJP's landslide victory was shaped by an accretion from most social sections, including the OBCs of Madhya Pradesh. Besides consolidating among its upper caste voter base, the BJP this time managed to attract more OBCs and Adivasis compared to 2018.

The Congress stayed significantly ahead of the BJP among SC communities, while other parties bagged 16%. The BSP polled 19% of the Jatav votes; with the Congress securing almost half the Jatav votes. Among the tribal voters, the Congress maintained an advantage over the BJP. The vote share was the closest among the Bhil community with a difference of only 4% between the Congress and BJP. The Congress secured half or more of the votes of other tribal communities; while the BJP managed more than a third of the votes. Congress did get overwhelming support among Muslims, though their population in the State is barely 7%. With BJP gaining among Upper Castes, the Congress found very thin support among these sections, including the Rajputs, compared to 2018.

A look at the Modi-Chouhan influence on the BJP's success

Vibha Attri
Avika Singh

Shivraj Singh Chouhan has been the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh since 2005, facing only a two-year hiccup in between. However, despite being the face of the BJP in Madhya Pradesh for almost two decades, it was clear that the party had sidelined the regional stalwart during the run-up to the State elections. As questions about who will be the next CM are debated, it is crucial to delve into the voter's sentiments in the State.

According to the Lokniti-CSDS survey, though the voters preferred Shivraj Singh Chouhan as the Chief Minister candidate, more than half of BJP's voters felt that the lack of Chouhan's presence in the campaign had no effect on their voting decision (Table 1). While three in ten BJP voters said that their voting decision could have been swayed if Shivraj Singh Chouhan had been made the CM face by the BJP, it is unclear what would have been the consequence.

The study shows that the absence of a Chief Ministerial candidate for the BJP had a relatively modest effect on the party's vote. Almost half of the BJP voters believed that projecting a candidate would not have changed their voting decision (Table 2). Meanwhile, around three in ten BJP voters acknowledged that having a CM candidate could have influenced their choice, a notable 18% were uncertain about whether and how it might have impacted their voting decision.

All this, in spite of the fact that Chouhan remains popular: one-third of the voters said that in their opinion, his popularity has increased over the years, and another three in every ten believed that his popularity remained unchanged (Table 3). For a leader who has been in power for almost two decades, this is a major achievement.

Table 1: The lack of Chouhan's CM face and its impact

If Shivraj Singh Chouhan was made the CM face by the BJP, would it have impacted your voting decision?	Yes	No	Can't say
Overall	22	57	21
Among the BJP voters (%)	29	54	17

Question asked: *If BJP had announced Shivraj Singh Chouhan as the Chief Ministerial face, would it have made a difference to your voting decision?*

Table 2: The lack of Chief Minister face and its impact

If BJP would have declared a chief ministerial face for Madhya Pradesh, would it have affected your voting choice?	Yes	No	Can't say
Overall	25	53	22
Among the BJP voters (%)	33	49	18

Question asked: *If BJP had declared a Chief Ministerial face for Madhya Pradesh, would it have affected your voting choice?*

Table 3: Popularity test

Has Shivraj Singh Chouhan's popularity...	(%)
Increased	35
Same as before	30
Decreased	28

Note: *Rest did not respond.* ***Question asked:*** *Compared to before, do you think Shivraj Singh Chouhan's popularity has increased or decreased?*

Table 4: The Modi effect

If Narendra Modi had not been the face of BJP's electoral campaign in Madhya Pradesh, would you still have voted for the BJP?	Yes	No	Can't say
Among the BJP voters (%)	56	19	25

Question asked: *If Narendra Modi was not the face of BJP's electoral campaign in Madhya Pradesh, would you still have voted for the BJP?*

Table 5: Impact of Rahul's campaigning

Did Rahul Gandhi's campaigning influence your vote choice?	Yes	No	No response
Among the Congress voters (%)	54	30	16

Question asked: *Did Rahul Gandhi's campaigning influence your vote choice for the party in this assembly election?*

Table 6: Voters' Chief Minister pick

Voter preference for the Chief Minister	Kamal Nath	Shivraj Singh Chouhan	Jyotiraditya Scindia	Narendra Singh Tomar
Overall	34	39	4	2
Among Congress Voters (%)	79	4	1	1
Among BJP voters (%)	2	77	6	4

Note: Rest cited other names or did not respond.
Question asked: *After the Assembly election results are out, who would you like to see as the next Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh?*

How much did the BJP's decision to not project Chauhan as CM candidate impact the voter's decision?

The data shows a most noteworthy trend among BJP voters in Madhya Pradesh. A significant majority among them (56%) expressed unwavering loyalty to the party, asserting that they would have still voted for the BJP even if Narendra Modi was not the face of the electoral campaign (Table 4). However, two in ten BJP voters emphasised the significance of Modi's presence, stating that they would not have voted for the BJP if not for him.

What captures attention is that Rahul Gandhi's campaign exerted a considerable influence on the voting decisions of more than half of Congress supporters, tipping the scales in favour of the party (Table 5).

Despite the uncertainty about BJP's Chief Ministerial candidate, the Congress failed to capitalise on it, in their favour. Although Shivraj Singh Chouhan was not at the forefront of the party's campaign in the State, the voters continued to prefer him (39%) over Kamal Nath (34%) as the next CM (Table 6). Thus, the ball remained in the BJP's court.

Modest performance, rich harvest

Suhas Palshikar

Voter assessment of a government's performance is often a mixed bag. However popular a government may be, voters will have some disappointments with it. Such disappointments sometimes culminate in an overall negative assessment and sometimes voters offer a positive assessment in spite of some disappointments. This is clearly evident in the case of Madhya Pradesh where voters did point to the limitations of the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government and yet felt generally satisfied with its performance and thus voted for retaining the same party in power.

Curiously, a government that yet again returned to power could not easily be identified by the voters for specific achievements. When asked to name a particular achievement of the BJP government in the State that they 'liked the most', the response rate was very meagre with voters coming up with general responses such as development etc (Table 1).

However, those who did list such achievements voted handsomely for the BJP; while those who mentioned specific achievements did not necessarily vote for the BJP. In contrast, when specifically asked if inflation and unemployment have increased, a large proportion of voters agreed that these have indeed increased while there is not much progress on the front of establishing new industries (Table 2).

What really helped the BJP government was the fact that despite being disappointed about the performance of the government in certain matters, voters did not punish the government–large numbers of the disappointed still voted for BJP (Table 3).

What helped the BJP the most was an overall sense of satisfaction with the State government (six in every ten were more or less satisfied) and the Central government (more than seven in every ten being more or less satisfied). This general satisfaction converted into votes in a very large proportion.

An unmistakable conclusion is that despite its performance not being extraordinary, the voters had decided to choose BJP over the Congress.

Table 1: Work vs vote

Work done by State government liked by voters (%)	Overall 1	Voter for...		
		Congress	BJP	Other parties
Development of the State by the Shivraj government	18	23	71	6
Worked for the benefit of the poor	11	25	64	11
Reduced power cuts	7	52	33	15
Solved the problem of availability of drinking water	5	52	36	12
Reduced prices	4	34	51	15

Note: Rest cited other reasons or did not respond.
Question asked: *What is the one work done by Shivraj Singh Chouhan's government which you liked the most?*

Table 2: Performance and perception

In the last five years in MP (%)	Inflation	Unemployment	Establishment of new industries
Increased	79	49	28
Same as before	9	17	20
Decreased	8	24	40

Note: All figures in percent. Rest did not respond
Question asked: During the past five years, have the following things increased or decreased in Madhya Pradesh?

Table 3: Disappointment vs vote share

Work of State government disliked by voters (%)	Overall	Voter for...		
		Congress	BJP	Other parties
Price rise	37	40	48	12
Increasing unemployment	24	42	48	10
Corruption	7	51	36	13
Insufficient initiatives for State's development	5	52	35	13
Did not work for the benefit of the poor	4	56	18	26

Note: Rest cited other reasons or did not respond.
Question asked: *What is the one work done by Shivraj Singh Chouhan's government which you disliked the most?*

Table 4: Satisfaction vs vote share

Satisfaction with State Government	Overall	Voter for...		
		Congress	BJP	Other parties
Fully satisfied	31	6	90	4
Somewhat satisfied	30	35	53	12
Somewhat dissatisfied	16	68	15	17
Fully dissatisfied	19	79	6	15

Note: Rest either did not respond.
Question asked: *Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the performance of Shivraj Singh Chouhan's BJP government of Madhya Pradesh over the past three and half years?*

Table 5: Satisfaction with the Central government

Satisfaction with the Central government	Overall	Voter for...		
		Congress	BJP	Other parties
Fully satisfied	39	15	77	8
Somewhat satisfied	32	47	38	15
Somewhat dissatisfied	12	59	29	12
Fully dissatisfied	14	76	10	14

Note: Rest either did not respond.
Question asked: Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the performance of the Narendra Modi-led BJP/NDA government at the Centre during the past nine and half years?

From Page One

Migrant quota cleared for J&K Assembly

The 2004 Act pertains to reservation in appointment and admission in professional institutions for the members of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and other Socially and Educationally Backward Classes.

Mr. Shah said that the Opposition's contention that the law cannot be amended as the principal Act passed on August 5, 2019 is under challenge in the Supreme Court does not hold ground as the apex court never stayed the implementation of the Act. He said there is "status quo".

Mr. Shah said former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru made "historical blunders" by taking the Kashmir issue to the United Nations, and agreeing to ceasefire when the Army was winning the war.

Congress members walked out of the House as Mr. Shah blamed India's first Prime Minister.

Mr. Shah said if Nehru had taken the right steps, a large chunk of territory would not have been ceded, and PoK would have been part of India.

After their walkout, Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leader Bhartruhari Mahtab mocked the Congress members saying the Home Minister should also talk about the "Himalayan blunder", a reference to Nehru's actions leading up to the war with China in 1962.

Mr. Shah was replying to a debate on the two Bills passed by the Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

Mr. Shah was responding to Congress member Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury's statement that though terror attacks have dipped in the Kashmir Valley, such incidents have increased across Pir Panjal in the Jammu region which have resulted in the killing of 23 security force personnel between April and November 2023 alone.

Mr. Shah said, "They are connecting terrorism with Article 370. Nobody said that after Article 370 is gone, terrorism will stop in Kashmir. I had said that after Article 370 is scrapped, there is going to be a sharp drop in spread of separatist ideology."

Meanwhile, he did not answer to the pointed questions from Opposition members on when Assembly election will be held in J&K or when the Statehood will be restored.

MP's remark on Hindi heartland States roils LS

Earlier, as the din continued in the House, Speaker Om Birla adjourned the proceedings for 20 minutes till noon. When the House resumed, Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal asked if Mr. Baalu and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi agreed with Mr. Senthilkumar's comments.

Soon after, Mr. Kumar, who had posted an apology on X the previous night, expressed his regret, saying that he had made the remarks "inadvertently" and that "if they have hurt the sentiments of people", he "withdraws them".

Later, Union Minister Anurag Thakur and colleague Rajeev Chandrasekhar held press conferences accusing the Congress of running a divisive agenda. Mr. Thakur accused the Congress-led Opposition of conspiring to undermine India's culture, pride, and identity, and playing the politics of regionalism instead of identifying the real cause of the party's defeat in the Assembly elections.

He questioned what the Congress' compulsion was in sticking with the DMK, despite the controversial remarks made by its leaders.

Mr. Chandrasekhar also made references to controversial remarks made by Telangana's Chief Minister-designate, Revanth Reddy, who had said that the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader K. Chandrashekar Rao's DNA was Bihari, and as a Kurmi, he had migrated to Telangana from that State. "This reflects the divisive agenda and politics of the Congress, a party that says it wants 'Bharat Jodo' (uniting India) but is actually intent on 'Bharat Todo' (breaking India)," he said.

Welfare scheme beneficiaries push BJP to victory in Madhya Pradesh

The decision of majority of the beneficiaries of Central and State schemes to vote for BJP significantly helped the party return to power in the State; in particular, the BJP benefited extra from the PM Awas Yojana despite the scheme reportedly benefiting only less than three in 10 respondents

LOKNITI-CSDS SURVEY

Abhinav Pankaj Borbora
Manish Gyani

Governments roll out welfare schemes with the stated objective of extending various benefits to those who are in need of them. During the time of elections, this tends to raise speculation about the potential impact of these schemes on voting behaviour. The assumption ordinarily is that proper implementation of these schemes contributes to voter's satisfaction while leakages and gaps generate discontent. The post-poll survey by Lokniti-CSDS in Madhya Pradesh provides a sense of the way beneficiaries of Central and State government welfare schemes voted in the Assembly election.

While the BJP polled an overall 48.5% votes in the election, beneficiaries of Central government schemes voted in a little larger proportion in favour of the BJP. In particular, the BJP benefited extra from the beneficiaries of the PM Awas Yojana. However, this scheme reportedly benefited only less than three in 10 respondents. Our survey shows that the Ujjwala Yojana most extensively benefited the voters, with almost six in 10 reporting having benefited from it. The Central government's Ayushman Bharat Yojana benefited nearly half the voters (49%) of Madhya Pradesh. Half of these beneficiaries voted for the BJP (Table 1).

Shivraj Singh Chouhan during his visit to Chhindwara. ANI

Table 1: Influence of Central government schemes on vote choice (%)

Central government schemes	Benefited (%)	Voted for...		
		Congress	BJP	Other parties
Prime Minister Matri Vandana Yojana	22	37	54	9
Ayushman Bharat Yojana	49	39	50	11
Prime Minister Awas Yojana	28	35	57	8
Ujjwala Yojana	59	41	51	8

Note: Rest either did not benefit, have not heard, did not respond or were not eligible. Question asked: Have you or any member of your family benefited from these Central government schemes?

Beneficiaries of the Madhya Pradesh government schemes also behaved similarly. Among the beneficiaries of the Mukhyamantri Kaushal Samvardhan Yojana, 58% voted for the BJP, but only 12% reported having benefited from it. Likewise, 57% of those who made use of the Mukhyamantri Awas Yojana, voted for BJP – with less than one in four reporting having benefited from it (Table 2).

The decision of majority of the beneficiaries of welfare schemes to vote for the BJP significantly helped the party return to power in Madhya Pradesh. This factor becomes crucial particularly in view of the fact that Congress did benefit rather considerably among non-beneficiaries of various schemes (Table 3). But it is important to remember that the advantage the BJP garnered on account of welfare schemes and their benefits to voters is not huge and only marginally accounts for its victory. The same is true of the Ladli Behna Yojana which did not make any extra-ordinary addition to the BJP vote share among women, contrary to the general belief.

Table 2: Influence of State government schemes on vote choice (%)

State government schemes	Benefited (%)	Voted for ...		
		Congress	BJP	Other parties
Mukhyamantri Awas Yojana	23	34	57	9
Mukhyamantri Kaushal Samvardhan Yojana	12	33	58	9

Note: Rest either did not benefit, have not heard, did not respond or were not eligible. Question asked: Have you or any of your family members benefited from these schemes of the State government?

Table 3: How did the non-beneficiaries of various schemes vote? (%)

Scheme	Voted for...	
	Congress	BJP
Prime Minister Matri Vandana Yojana	41	47
Ayushman Bharat Yojana	43	46
Prime Minister Awas Yojana	43	45
Ujjwala Yojana	40	44
Mukhyamantri Awas Yojana	43	46
Mukhyamantri Kaushal Samvardhan Yojana	42	47

Note: Rest either did not benefit, have not heard, did not respond or were not eligible. Question asked: Have you or any of your family members benefited from these schemes?

Abhinav P. Borbora is researcher at Lokniti-CSDS and Dr. Manish Gyani is a research fellow at the MPISSR, Ujjain

How much did women contribute to BJP's success?

Jyoti Mishra
Saloni Kumari

The subject of women voters took centre stage during the Madhya Pradesh Assembly election, with the BJP government making efforts to appeal to women through the introduction of women-centric welfare schemes such as Ladli Behna and Ladli Lakshmi. In the lead-up to the election, the BJP also announced subsidised cooking gas and increased reservation in government jobs as "Rakshabandhan gifts". Notably, the Congress promised ₹1,500 per month to every woman in the State if it were to come to power. Post-election, discussions emerged regarding the heightened turnout of women voters, revealing that in 34 Assembly constituencies, the turnout of women surpassed that of men. Consequently, it becomes crucial to delve into the voting patterns of women in this election and the factors influencing their choices. Although, it is necessary also to remember that overall, women voted less than men this time. Against 78.2% turnout among men, the turnout among women in Madhya Pradesh was 76.03%. Last time too, the turnout among women was around 2% less than among men.

Analysing political preferences across genders, it was observed that both men and women in Madhya Pradesh generally leaned towards the BJP. Specifically, 43% of women voted for the Congress, while 47% supported the BJP. Ironically, Congress polled more among women than it did among men voters and the BJP polled more among men than among women.

Delving into urban and rural trends, urban women displayed a stronger inclination towards the BJP (53%) as compared to women in rural areas (45%) (Table 1).

Examining the impact of campaigns on voting choices, data revealed that more women than men made last-minute decisions, with 29% of women and 22% of men deciding in the eleventh hour (Table 2).

Further analysis indicated a slight edge for the BJP among women deciding late (48%) compared to those deciding during the campaign (46%), underlying the significance of campaign dynamics in shaping electoral outcomes (Table 3).

Turning attention to women-centric welfare schemes, it was found that women beneficiaries of Ladli Lakshmi and Ladli Behna Yojana generally favoured the BJP.

In contrast, women not benefiting from these schemes, especially Ladli Behna, preferred the Congress (Table 4).

The Madhya Pradesh Assembly election showcased the BJP's strategic focus on women voters through welfare schemes and targeted promises.

However, available data from the post-poll survey suggest that despite having a slight advantage in gender terms, the BJP's victory cannot be attributed to women voters alone.

Jyoti Mishra and Saloni Kumari are researchers at Lokniti-CSDS

Table 1: Both men and women preferred BJP over Congress; BJP was preferred more among urban women compared to rural women (%)

	Party voted for...	
	Congress	BJP
Men	38	50
Women	43	47
Rural women	43	45
Urban women	42	53

Note: Rest voted for other parties

Table 2: More women than men were last-minute deciders (%)

	Last minute	During campaign	Early deciders
Men	22	44	34
Women	29	42	30

Question asked: When did you finally make up your mind about whom to vote for?

Table 3: BJP has slight edge among women who decided late (%)

Time of vote choice	Party voted for...	
	Congress	BJP
Women who decided last minute	42	48
Women who decided during campaign	45	46
Women who decided early	42	47

Question asked: When did you finally make up your mind about whom to vote for?

Table 4: BJP was preferred by the women beneficiaries of women-centric schemes of M.P. government (%)

Women beneficiaries of State schemes	Overall	Party voted for...	
		Congress	BJP
Ladli Lakshmi Yojana			
Beneficiaries	48	42	49
Non-beneficiaries	41	44	43
Ladli Behna Yojana			
Beneficiaries	81	42	48
Non-beneficiaries	12	53	36

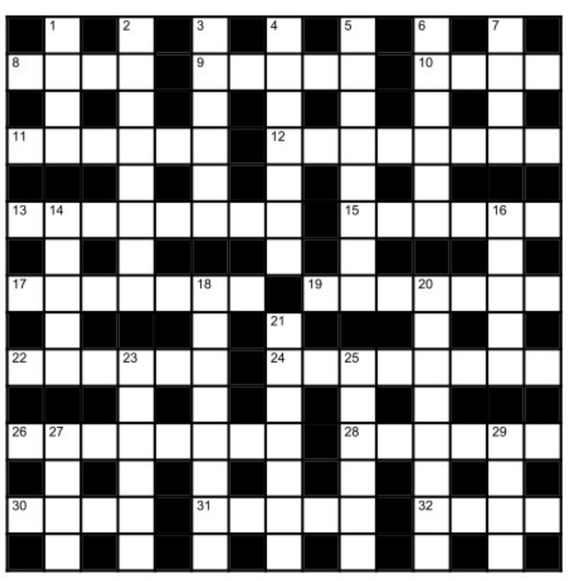
Question asked: Have you or any member of your family benefited from these schemes of Madhya Pradesh government?

TH CROSSWORD + 14039

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Nastily hoarding wine (4)
9 Look at some Saraswat children (5)
10 Processing raisin is banned in Middle Eastern country (4)
11 Drive miles around university for food (6)
12 Texts about youth centre's direct debit for desserts (8)
13 Adjourn in favour of scoundrel (8)
15 Address obtained from Superintendent of Police starting to examine European church (6)
17 Badly upset by princess' argument (7)
19 Agrees: "Towering and is having energy" (7)
22 Rose took the elevator to top floor (4,2)
24 Latest style? Pout on romantic outing! (2-2-4)
26 You and I arrange flowers endlessly for legendary creature (8)
28 Full-bodied bust or operated upon? (6)
30 Café table has some type of cheese (4)
31 A young lady can be wrong (5)
32 Agitated traitor throwing tar in civil disturbance (4)

Down

1 Isaac's son's directions to get gold (4)
2 A spirit travels across road and runway (8)
3 Having title but due around beginning of November (6)
4 Main items sold by stationers (7)
5 He radios wrongly, "This is what Zimbabwe was called earlier" (8)
6 Share, "Four or six Romans entered and died horribly" (6)
7 Suspend Chinese girl (4)
14/23 Increase height of liquor service counter and improve standards (5,3,3)
16 Talk about Middlesex conman (5)
18 Prepared pasta stuffed with Indian origin chilli initially and starches (8)
20 Female flier or insect? (8)
21 Discriminatory female is first in exciting event (7)
23 See 14
25 Force husband into faith (6)
27 Still evening and no gin cocktail? (4)
29 Presently circles between two Poles (4)

SUDOKU

					3		7	8
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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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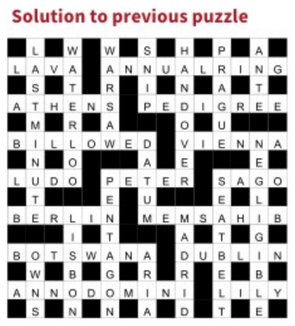
Solution to previous puzzle



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	6	5	2	8	7	3	4	9
9	7	8	6	4	3	5	2	1
4	2	3	9	5	1	6	7	8
5	1	2	7	6	9	4	8	3
8	9	6	4	3	2	7	1	5
3	4	7	5	1	8	2	9	6
7	3	9	8	2	6	1	5	4
6	8	4	1	7	5	9	3	2
2	5	1	3	9	4	8	6	7

FAITH

All pervasive

Lord Narayana is all pervasive. Once we realise that He is everywhere, and the Universe is His body, we will stop differentiating among people, said Velukkudi Krishnan, in a discourse. An individual is but a drop of sweat in one hair follicle of the Lord's divine body. No man is more significant or more important than another. To a devotee of Lord Narayana, expensive things are no different from mud. He spends all his time in reciting the Lord's names, in listening to descriptions of His leelas, and in meditating upon His qualities. Saunaka rishi describes how the Lord posed questions to Janaka about the king's impartiality and how Janaka answered the Lord. The Lord, who is in the guise of a Brahmin, reveals His form to Janaka, holding in His arms the discus and conch. He then asks Janaka what boon he craves. Janaka prays that he should always have bhakti towards this divine appearance.

A person seeking moksha must have knowledge of the Jivatma and the Paramatma. He should know the upaya (means) for reaching the Lord. He must know that the karmas which he has accumulated over many births are the hurdles, which prevent him from reaching the Lord. He must know what he will do when he attains moksha. He must understand that once he reaches the abode of Lord Vishnu, he must do kainkarya (service) to the Lord.

Char Dham project did not need EIA, Centre in Parliament

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Char Dham project in Uttarakhand, under which the Silkyara tunnel is being developed, did not require an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA), the Union government told Parliament on Wednesday.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, through its notification dated August 22, 2013, said expansion of National Highways by more than 100 km involving additional right of way or land acquisition of more than 40 metres on existing alignments and 60 metres on realignments required prior environment clearance.

Though the Char Dham projects totals 825 km, since it is being developed in smaller parcels of 53 projects, each with a length of less than 100 km, there was no environment clearance needed, the Centre said.

'No requirement'

"Each project is independent, having distinct start and end points which are important places on these highways. There was no requirement for EIA for these projects," Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said in the Rajya Sabha in response to a question from Rashtriya Janata Dal MP, A.D. Singh.

The Char Dham project envisages all-weather connectivity to four major pilgrimage sites in Uttarakhand-Kedarnath, Badrinath, Yamunotri and Gangotri.

The Minister added that under the directions of Supreme Court, the Ministry has constituted a High-Powered Committee. The committee is mandated to consider the impact of Char Dham Projects on the entire Himalayan valleys and give directions to conduct EIA and rapid EIA.

Date for next summit of INDIA parties will be out soon: Kharge

Parliamentary floor leaders of 17 parties discuss strategy for the Winter Session; representatives from Trinamool and Sena (UBT) were absent; the gathering did not deliberate on the Assembly poll results or its strategy for 2024 Lok Sabha polls

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Parliamentary floor leaders of 17 parties met at Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's residence for a dinner meeting to discuss the strategy for the Winter Session of Parliament. There were no representatives from the Trinamool Congress and Shiv Sena (Uddhav Bal Thackeray). It was decided at the meeting that the next summit of the INDIA parties will be held in the third week of December after consultations with other party chiefs.

The Congress had called for a meeting of heads of INDIA bloc parties on December 6. The meet, however, could not take place as at least three senior leaders expressed their inability to attend the meet. Instead, it was decided that a meeting of parliamentary leaders would be held.

Future planning: INDIA bloc leaders attending a meeting at the residence of Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday. ANI

In a post on X, Mr. Kharge said that the like-minded parties who attended the meeting have agreed to take up the issues of the people in Parliament, in the remaining part of this session to "make the government accountable." "A date for the meeting of INDIA parties will soon be fixed, in consultation with the leaders of all parties," he announced.

Briefing the media after the meeting, Congress Working Committee member and Rajya Sabha MP Syed Naseer Hussain said that the upcoming Bills were discussed. Speaking about the absence of Trinamool Congress and Shiv Sena (UBT) representatives, Mr. Hussain said that the parties had informed them earlier that they will not be able to make it.

According to sources, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MP Raghav Chadha expressed disappointment that it has been more than three months since the last INDIA summit that was held in Mumbai from August 31 to September 1.

The gathering did not deliberate on the recent Assembly election results or the differences that arose between the allies during the polls. "There was no word spoken on what our strategy will be in 2024 general election. The seat-sharing arrangement was not broached at all," one of the participants told *The Hindu*.

Instead, the floor leaders, concentrated on concretising their strategy for the Winter Session that has been discussed in detail in a similar meeting held in Mr. Kharge's office in Parliament on Monday. Sources said that the parties have resolved to strongly protest against the three legislations aimed at overhauling the existing criminal justice system for which 15 hours each has been allocated for debate in Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha.

The parties have also agreed to oppose the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners Bill, 2023, that seeks to replace the Chief Justice of India with a Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister in the selection committee for choosing the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners, thereby, virtually giving the dispensation the power to overrule the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and hand-pick candidates for these posts.

Opposition, Centre fight in RS over state of economy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Samajwadi Party leader questions the rosy picture painted by BJP members in House

On the second day of the short-duration discussion on the state of the economy held in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday, the Opposition and the Treasury Benches used statistics to counter each other.

The House discussed the subject for about seven hours in the two days and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is likely to reply to the debate on Thursday. Trinamool Congress leader Derek O'Brien, who initiated the debate, requested Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar that the reply be postponed as most of the Opposition leaders are travelling to Hyderabad to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the new government in Telangana. Mr. Dhankhar said he will consider the request.

SP leader Ramgopal Yadav started his speech by saying that after hearing the BJP members' speeches, he felt they were "coming from another world". Professor Yadav asked the Ministers to stop reading out what is written on the papers and understand the problems of the people on the ground. He said promises such as tap water and toilets for all have not been fulfilled and inequality has increased.

Mahesh Jethmalani of the BJP asked the Opposition to see the growth rate, and said high growth will address issues such as unemployment and inflation.

P. Wilson (DMK) said the Centre was not supporting the development initiatives of the States despite collecting a huge chunk of taxes and levies.

CMs should be told well ahead about INDIA meet: Mamata

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday said that Chief Ministers should be informed well in advance of INDIA meetings as they have pre-scheduled programmes.

She said that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had called her on Monday, urging her to join the meeting initially scheduled to be held on Tuesday.

"I said nobody told me and I do not know. I had my programme also. For other Chief Ministers also, they are also busy and [cannot come] if they are not informed seven or ten days earlier," she said.

She expressed the hope that Opposition parties under the banner of INDIA would meet soon, "whenever they decide".

On Tuesday, the Congress had been forced to downgrade the event from a planned gathering of party chiefs to a "coordination meeting of Parliamentary party leaders". Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin declined the invitation, citing the flood situation in the State. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar too had prior engagements.

BJP MPs who won State polls resign from Parliament as CM race heats up

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Wednesday decided that all 12 of its MPs who have been elected in the recently concluded Assembly elections in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh will quit their parliamentary membership. They include Union Ministers Narendra Singh Tomar and Prahlad Singh Patel.

BJP president J.P. Nadda accompanied 10 of the MPs, including Rajya Sabha members Kirodi Lal Meena, as they tendered their resignations from Parliament. Union Minister Renuka Singh and Mahant Balaknath will also quit, party leaders said. "It has been decided that all would be quitting and taking their place in the State Assemblies," said a senior source in the party.

The BJP has not yet taken any steps to declare Chief Ministers for the three Hindi heartland States where it won power in the Assembly elections. Against that backdrop, the decision that the winning MPs will quit Parliament has given rise to speculation that the party leadership may bring in new faces at the helm in all the three States.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP chief JP Nadda with the party leaders resigned from Parliament on Wednesday. PTI

Lok Sabha members who put in their papers include Rakesh Singh, Uday Pratap Singh, Riti Pathak, Mr. Patel, and Mr. Tomar from Madhya Pradesh; Diya Kumari and Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore from Rajasthan; and Gomati Sai and Arun Sao from Chhattisgarh. Mr. Meena, a Rajya Sabha member from Rajasthan, also quit.

Mr. Patel said that the MPs had taken Prime Minister Narendra Modi's blessings before tendering their resignations.

Procedural formality

Mr. Patel, Mr. Tomar, and Ms. Singh will also resign from the Council of Ministers as a procedural formality. Given that Mr. Tomar is a Cabinet Minister handling the crucial Agriculture portfolio, their departure has sparked a fresh buzz within the party on whether the Prime Minister will induct new members into his Council of Ministers ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

Mr. Patel, who comes from a politically significant Other Backward Class (OBC) community, and Mr. Tomar, a seasoned administrator, are both seen as possible Chief Ministerial choices in Madhya Pradesh. The other main candidate is the incumbent Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who has been at the helm in the State since 2005, except for five months when Kamal Nath headed a Congress government after the 2018 Assembly election.

Amid speculation within the party that its leadership may pick one of the outgoing MPs as the new Chief Minister of Rajasthan, where veteran leader Vasundhara Raje is also in the race, its senior functionaries said that political factors involving social equations will be a key consideration in naming the three new CMs. Ms. Raje, 70, is a two-term former CM, but her equation with the party's national leadership has not been smooth.

Mr. Sao, an OBC, and Ms. Sai, who comes from a Scheduled Tribe community, are both seen as serious contenders in Chhattisgarh due to their social backgrounds, image, and relatively young profiles. Other contenders include former bureaucrat-turned-MLA O.P. Choudhary.

A party leader pointed to the Prime Minister's recent comment that women, the youth, the poor, and farmers are the four biggest castes, noting that this may play a role in the final decision.

"The decisions will be taken with regard to the future of the BJP in these States, social agenda, and the ability of the Chief Minister to govern as well as helm party affairs firmly," a source said.

In the run-up to the polls, the BJP campaigned on a collective leadership pitch, with Mr. Modi heading the effort.

Kamal Nath may face pressure to make way for new leadership in M.P.

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

Three days after the Congress's loss in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly election, senior leaders have come out in the public questioning the leadership over issues such as infighting in the State unit.

Senior State leader Lakshman Singh, brother of former Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh, took to X (formerly Twitter) on Wednesday saying the EVMs are being blamed to "hide" the sabotage and infighting in the party.

Stating that the demand for ballots were being made for 20 years, Mr. Singh asked, "...till date we have not taken the help of law, why so? Perhaps to hide the sabotage, EVMs are being blamed. The machine cannot talk back." His comments came barely hours after Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Kamal Nath met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and party leader Rahul Gandhi at Mr. Kharge's official residence in Delhi.

Kamal Nath

Though there has been no official word yet on the meeting, political observers say there will be pressure on Mr. Nath to make way for a new leadership in the State after the party was reduced to 66 seats in the 230-member Assembly, from 114 seats in 2018.

A close aide of Mr. Nath also refuted claims that he will resign, and asserted that the party will soon begin preparations for the Lok Sabha election in 2024.

Alleges vote tampering

Earlier on Tuesday, Mr. Nath held a review meeting with the party's new MLAs and defeated candidates in Bhopal.

After the meeting, the State Congress, in a statement, said several candidates had claimed that on average, at least 100 EVMs or 20,000 votes seem to have been tampered with (in their respective constituencies).

At the meeting, he advised them not to get disheartened by the results of the Assembly election but focus on the Lok Sabha election. Despite winning 114 seats in the 2018 Assembly election, the party only won one seat in the 2019 Lok Sabha election – Chhindwara by Mr. Nath's son Nakul Nath.

Going into the next year's election, the Congress will have to deal with various challenges with the most immediate being boosting the morale of the workers who have just faced a crushing defeat and also the absence of a second line of leadership in the State.

Opposition boycotts tea party in Maharashtra

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Opposition parties in Maharashtra on Wednesday opted out of the tea party on the eve of the State Legislature's Winter Session, accusing the government of mishandling issues like riots, drugs and farmer distress. Leader of the Opposition,Vijay Wadettiwar, said, "We received the State government's invitation for the tea party, but we find it highly inappropriate to attend."

INBRIEF

December 6 is when citizens destroyed Babar's symbol: MP

BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, during a debate in the Lok Sabha on the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Bill on Wednesday, referred to December 6 as the day when the symbol of Babar was destroyed. "Today is December 6 that marks the *mahaparinirvan divas* of Babasaheb Ambedkar, who gave us the Constitution. Secondly, it is the day when the ordinary citizens of this country destroyed the symbol of Babar. That is why this day is so important," he said, without directly mentioning the demolition of the Babri Masjid. "They [the Congress] has done only politics with J&K," he said.

Jamaat-e-Islami urges parties to introspect after poll results

Following the results of the Assembly elections, the Jamaat-e-Islami Hind has expressed concern over the direction in which national politics is moving with the Lok Sabha election set to be held next year. Steering clear of binaries, it asked parties to introspect on how the Hindi heartland has come in the grip of communal elements. The Jamaat's vice-president Malik Mohtasim Khan on Tuesday said: "We invite both winners and losers of these elections to seriously introspect, ponder, and reflect on the direction that our nation is taking and its impact on our core constitutional values." He raised the diminishing representation of Muslims in representative bodies.

Over 100 sites related to job frauds, investments blocked

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said on Wednesday that over 100 websites, which facilitated organised illegal investments and task-based part time job frauds have been blocked by the government. According to an MHA statement, these websites, which facilitated task-based organised illegal investment related to economic crimes, were learnt to be operated by overseas actors and were using digital advertisement, chat messengers and mule and rented accounts. The Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre, a wing of the Union Home Ministry, through its vertical National Cybercrime Threat Analytics Unit had last week identified and recommended over 100 websites involved in organised investment and task based part time job frauds be blocked.

APPEAL

I am **Gnana priyan** (6 years), diagnosed to S/p Bilateral PA Banding+ Reverse BT Shunt, and advised to undergo a CT pulmonary Angio+complex infant Open Heart Surgery at Madras Medical Mission, Chennai. We cannot afford Hospitalisation & Surgery cost of **Rs. 6,00,000/-**. I seek your generous contribution for my surgery. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **Madras Medical Mission, Chennai will be acknowledged.** The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No. 60182010063310, IFSC No. CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** are entitled for exemption under 80G IT. Please give us your e mail id.

All correspondence is done through **WWS,** Regd. Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Road, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 28235324. E Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com**

Gnana priyan

INBRIEF

Bandh observed in Rajasthan over Gogamedi's murder

A bandh was observed in Jaipur and several other districts of Rajasthan on Wednesday on a call given by the Rashtriya Rajput Karni Sena to protest against the daylight murder of its chief Sukhdev Singh Gogamedi at his residence. The police formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the killing and announced a cash reward of ₹5 lakh for any information about the two assailants. Markets, commercial establishments, schools and colleges remained closed in several cities, including Jaipur, Udaipur, Ajmer, Chittorgarh and Bundi, and members of the Rajput community staged demonstrations and took out rallies.

Will only take reservation from OBC quota: Jarange Patil

Even as Maratha activist Manoj Jarange Patil continued to insist that the reservation for the Maratha community must be given from the Other Backward Class (OBC) pie, differences arose among members within the Maharashtra State Backward Class Commission over the quota stir, prompting resignations of some OBC members in the Commission. On Wednesday, a delegation of OBC and Dhangar members led by former Member of Parliament Haribhau Rathod met with the Maratha quota activist. Mr. Jarange Patil said the only way to ensure foolproof reservation for the Marathas was to include them in the Kunbi OBC category.

Trinamool Cong. outraged by Giriraj's remarks on Mamata

The Trinamool Congress on Wednesday expressed outrage at the remarks by Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Giriraj Singh directed at West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee dubbing them as "regressive and misogynist". The Union Minister said that Ms. Banerjee was "celebrating" *(jashna manana)* and "dancing" *(thumka lagana)"* when allegations of corruption against her government have resulted in stoppage of funds to key schemes. Several women leaders of the Trinamool Congress issued statements condemning the remarks by the Union Minister.

Arbitration agreement could bind non-signatory firms: SC

The Supreme Court on Wednesday held that an arbitration agreement can be binding on non-signatory firms under the 'group of companies' doctrine. The doctrine makes an arbitration agreement binding on a firm, which though not a signatory, is a member of a group of companies that is a party to the agreement. "The group of companies doctrine must be retained in the Indian arbitration jurisprudence considering its utility in determining the intention of the parties in the context of complex transactions involving multiple parties and multiple agreements," a Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud held in a judgment.

India reminds Myanmar to return to 'federal democracy'

Following intense fighting, thousands of Myanmarese nationals including former military personnel sought refuge in India; the Ministry of External Affairs Arindam Bagchi expressed deep concern over the conflict in the neighbouring country

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

As conflict intensifies between armed resistance groups and the Myanmar military in the Chin, Shan and Sagaing provinces, India on Wednesday reminded Myanmar to return to the path of federal democracy.

The message was delivered by Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra, who held a Foreign Office consultation with a Myanmarese delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister of Myanmar U Lwin Oo.

Keeping an eye: People's Liberation Army forces fight the Myanmar junta near the Sagaing Region in Myanmar on November 23. REUTERS

A transition

"Both sides held discussions on a wide range of issues covering the situation along the border, security, trade, commerce, connectivity, status of bilateral development projects in Myanmar and concerns related to transnational crimes.

The Indian side reiterated its support to Myanmar for a transition towards a federal democracy," said a press note from the Ministry of External Affairs on Wednesday. Myanmar's military has been battling armed insurgents who have forced it out of several townships over the past few weeks.

Following intense fighting, thousands of Myanmarese nationals including former military personnel recently sought refuge in India.

'Deep concern'

The Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, Arindam Bagchi, expressed "deep concern" over the conflict.

About Wednesday's discussion, Mr. Bagchi said the two sides discussed the "security situation, border management and transnational crimes".

Support to continue

"The Indian side said it continued to support people-centric socio-economic developmental projects, including connectivity projects and projects under the Rakhine State Development Programme and Border Area Development Programme for the benefit of the people of Myanmar," the MEA said.

Cases being shifted from SC Benches: Dushyant

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Former Supreme Court Bar Association president and senior advocate Dushyant Dave on Wednesday penned an open letter to Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud highlighting that cases, including sensitive ones, were being "taken away" from Supreme Court Benches hearing them and listed before other Benches in clear disregard of the Supreme Court Rules. Mr. Dave said those cases that were first listed before a Bench or notice issued by it were suddenly shifted to another Bench. He said cases, instead of remaining with the lead judge on a Bench, were listed before the associate judge when the latter starts heading a new Bench.

"Matters listed before Court No. 2, 4, 6, 7 amongst others have been shifted out and listed before other Benches in clear disregard of the Rules, the Handbook on Practice and Office Procedure referred above and established Practice and Convention...," he wrote.

AICTE to regulate BBA and BCA programmes with curriculum vetted by experts

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

Undergraduate (UG) courses such as Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) and Bachelor of Computer Application (BCA) will be regulated by the All India Council for Technical Education from 2024-25. The AICTE released its new approval process handbook on Wednesday, which will remain valid for three years from 2024-25 to 2026-27. The provision for extension of approval up to three years for well-performing institutions, reduction in compliances related to the requirement of land documents and no-objection certificate from affiliating universities and States, and introducing off-campus provision for well-performing existing institutions within the jurisdiction of affiliating universities are a few other changes the council is bringing about in the next year.

The AICTE released its new approval process handbook on Wednesday, which will be valid for three years. DEBASISH BHADURI

T.G. Sitharam, AICTE Chairman, said that while it regulates postgraduate (PG) programmes leading to Master's in Business Administration (MBA) and Master's in Computer Applications (MCA) degrees, it will now also include BBA and BCA under its regulatory umbrella. "We are introducing a new curriculum vetted by experts across the country for UG courses," Mr. Sitharam added.

Of the 8,261 institutes the AICTE regulates with a total approved intake of 30.49 lakh students, a majority are engineering institutes (5857) with an approved intake of 24.73 lakh students. Others are Design, Hotel Management and Catering, Management and Computer Applications institutes. Mr. Sitharam also said that the AICTE is easing career advancement for working professionals in the field of technical education by introducing flexible study timings in selected institutes.

The AICTE has also laid out norms for granting autonomy to polytechnic colleges from next year.

Panel working on guidelines on seizure of personal digital devices, Centre tells SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The government in the Supreme Court on Wednesday remained ambiguous about framing guidelines for investigating agencies to follow during the seizure of electronic evidence from personal devices, including mobile phones and computers, especially of the academia and presspersons.

A Bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul said the government had been sitting on the issue of framing the guidelines for nearly two years.

"When will you come up with your guidelines," Justice Kaul asked Additional Solicitor-General S.V. Raju, for the government. Mr. Raju said a "committee" was working on the issue and he would get instructions by next week. He had been unwell and was not able to keep tabs on the progress made, Mr. Raju said.

The Supreme Court posted the case for December 14. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

The court posted the case for December 14.

Senior advocate Nitya Ramakrishnan and advocate Prasanna S. appeared for the petitioners, Professors Ram Ramaswamy, Sujata Patel, M. Madhava Prasad, Mukul Kesavan and Deepak Malghan. Ms. Ramakrishnan said personal electronic devices could not be seized and kept in the custody of probe agencies indefinitely. At most, they could take copies of the material or content in the devices. The lawyer along with senior advocate Siddharth Agarwal said they had separately given their suggestions for the proposed guidelines.

"This is an immediate issue. Some 300 devices have been seized from around 90 journalists... How will you feel if someone comes to your house and seizes and reads your letters... This is a complete assault on journalistic freedom," Ms. Ramakrishnan argued.

The academics have contended that the seizure of their digital devices amounted to a violation of their right to privacy and they run the risk of losing their life's work when police carry off their computers and drives after a raid. The case resonates with issues raised by recent Delhi Police raids on journalists and activists in the *NewsClick* case.

16 media collectives had written to the Chief Justice of India, urging judicial intervention to frame norms against the seizure of laptops and mobile phones of journalists on a whim.

Move away from colonial mindset, encourage use of Bharatiya languages: NCERT

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

On being asked if the Centre has received any recommendation from a panel of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) to use the word 'Bharat' in place of 'India' in textbooks, the Ministry of Education in its reply in Parliament stated that India's Constitution recognises both India and Bharat as the official names of the country which can be used interchangeably.

"The NCERT duly acknowledges this spirit as enshrined in our Constitution and does not differentiate between the two," the reply further said.

A controversy erupted after a recommendation to revise school curriculum. R.V.MOORTHY

"As we collectively move away from the colonial mindset and encourage the usage of the words in *Bharatiya bhasha* [Indian languages], NCERT, as an autonomous body under the aegis of the Ministry of Education involved in preparation of school curriculum and textbooks, will also do its best in furthering the same," the MoE reply said.

Communist Party of India Member of Parliament P. Santhosh Kumar said that "the India vs Bharat debate is artificially created to polarise opinion and divide the people".

A controversy erupted in October after recommendations of a high-level committee set up by NCERT aimed to revise school curriculum and proposed that 'India' should be replaced with 'Bharat' in the textbooks.

The NCERT had then said that it was 'too premature' to comment on the issue.

SpiceJet plane carrying passengers forced to divert, seized by lessors

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

In a dramatic series of events, a SpiceJet flight carrying passengers from Ahmedabad to Dubai was diverted minutes before landing, and seized by a lessor on November 30.

SpiceJet's SG 15 flight took off from Ahmedabad at 12.12 a.m. on November 30 and was airborne for three hours, when approximately 10 minutes away from its destination, Dubai International Airport, it was instructed to divert to Dubai's second and less-busy airport, Al Maktoum International, also known as Dubai World Central (DWC).

Once the aircraft landed, it was greeted by lessors who waited for passengers to deplane and seized the aircraft.

Sources say the engine lessor obtained a court order to ground aircraft for engine removal. REUTERS

The Boeing 737 NG aircraft was leased from Carlyle Aviation Partners in December 2018. The aircraft has since been grounded, according to information from flight tracking website *flightradar24.com*. A message to an official of Carlyle Aviation Partners, which has a 7.5% stake in SpiceJet after its dues worth $100 million were converted into equity in February, did not elicit a response. However, the industry sources said that an engine lessor obtained a court order to get the aircraft grounded to remove the engines.

To a question on what attempts the airline will make to retrieve the aircraft, the spokesperson said, "Currently, there is no restriction on bringing the aircraft back to India." The airline has seen its fleet size deplete as lessors have moved to deregister and procure their aircraft over pending dues. From a fleet size of 76 aircraft in April 2019, the airline was down to 65 aircraft in April 2023. The fleet is now further down to 55 aircraft. Of these, too, as many as 27 are grounded due to various reasons, including the airline's inability to repair and maintain them.

In September, the Supreme Court had threatened to send chairman and managing director of SpiceJet Ajay Singh to Tihar Jail over delay in payment of $1.5 million to Credit Suisse.

Garba dance of Gujarat makes it to UNESCO list

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Gujarat's traditional dance form 'Garba' was on Wednesday included in the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The popular dance form is the 15th cultural item from India to make it to the UNESCO list. Kolkata's Durga Puja was the last one added two years ago.

The inclusion has been made under the provisions of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage. The international cultural body described the 'Garba' as a ritualistic and devotional dance performed India.

GENEVA

UNICEF official condemns sexual violence in Hamas attacks

AFP

The head of the United Nations children's agency condemned on Wednesday acts of sexual violence committed against women during Hamas's October 7 attack on Israel. In a post on Wednesday on X (formerly Twitter), UNICEF executive-director Catherine Russell called the accounts of sexual violence "horrific". AFP

PARIS

Detained Iran protesters raped, sexually assaulted, says Amnesty

AFP

Members of the Iranian security forces raped and used other forms of sexual violence against women and men detained in the crackdown on nationwide protests that erupted in 2022, Amnesty International said on Wednesday. Amnesty said it had recorded 45 cases of rape, gang-rape or sexual violence against protesters. AFP

WASHINGTON

U.S. signs defence cooperation agreement with Sweden

AFP

The U.S. and Sweden on Tuesday signed a first-ever defence cooperation agreement that will strengthen military ties and permit bilateral exercises as the Scandinavian nation awaits accession to NATO, authorities said. U.S. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin signed the agreement with Swedish Defence Minister Pal Jonson. AFP

TAIPEI

Taiwan probes free China trips used to 'influence' election

AP

Taiwanese prosecutors said on Wednesday they were investigating five people over accusations they had arranged free trips to China for dozens of voters in a bid to "influence" next month's elections. Taiwan goes to polls on January 13 to elect a new President and a new Parliament. AFP

Gaza civilians suffer as heavy fighting halts aid delivery

Makeshift shelters and family homes are overflowing and many are sleeping on the streets; Egypt deploys thousands of troops to prevent mass influx of refugees; UN says 1.87 mn have fled homes

Associated Press
DEIR AL-BALAH, GAZA STRIP

Israeli forces battled Hamas militants across Gaza on Wednesday in intense fighting that has prevented the distribution of vital aid in much of the territory and brought some of the devastation and mass displacement seen in the north to the south.

As the focus of the ground offensive moves down the Gaza Strip and into Khan Younis, it is further shrinking the area where Palestinians can seek safety and pushing large numbers of people, many of whom have been forced to flee multiple times, toward the sealed-off border with Egypt.

Residents of Khan Younis in Gaza Strip looking at the property that was damaged due to Israeli airstrike on Wednesday. REUTERS

On the Gaza side of the border, makeshift shelters and family homes are already overflowing and many are sleeping on the streets. On the other side, thousands of Egyptian troops have deployed to prevent any mass influx of refugees, which Egypt says would undermine its decades-old peace treaty with Israel.

The UN says some 1.87 million people have already fled their homes. Many Palestinians fear they will not be allowed to return.

Much of the north, including large parts of Gaza City, has been completely destroyed, and Palestinians worry the rest of Gaza could suffer a similar fate as Israel tries to dismantle Hamas, which has deep roots in the territory it has ruled for 16 years.

Israel has vowed to fight on, saying it can no longer accept a Hamas military presence in Gaza after the October 7 attack that triggered the war. Hamas and other militants killed about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took captive some 240 men, women and children in that attack.

An estimated 138 hostages remain in Gaza after more than 100 were freed during a cease-fire last week.

Indian-origin media executive Samir Shah to head BBC Board

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

A British-Indian has been picked by the U.K. government to head the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) as its next chair. Samir Shah, a 71-year-old former BBC non-executive director and media executive, was born in Aurangabad and moved to the U.K. in 1960. He will head the public broadcaster as it faces questions over its independence and financial challenges with the renewal of its charter.

The previous BBC chair, Richard Sharp, stepped down in June over his failure to disclose that he had helped arrange a £800,000 loan to former U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson. The BBC chair's duties include overseeing the independence of the organisation.

The BBC chair's duties include overseeing the independence of the organisation.

Mr. Shah, who has worked in media for over four decades and owns Juniper TV, a media company, has connections to the Conservative Party. He was also on the U.K. government's Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities which was established during the Boris Johnson administration in 2020, in connection with the Black Lives Matter movement and published a controversial report in March 2021. The report said while racism exists in Britain, socio-economic factors, culture and religion, geography, family, affect opportunities more than the existence of racism.

Mr. Shah will take over the reins of the Board as the BBC is facing £500 million in cost-cutting with higher costs and a two year freeze on its licensing fee, which constitutes most of its funding. The fee – paid by households and establishments – is unlikely to increase to reflect inflation, with the government pushing back against a hike of this magnitude. U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak recently supported the BBC making savings and said it was appropriate that the broadcaster "cut its cloth appropriately".

The BBC, through its World Service in 42 languages, also had a weekly audience of some 426 million globally, according to its own estimates in 2019. The BBC is responsible for guarding the editorial independence of its World Service and the BBC chair and U.K. Foreign Secretary (or their representatives) meet at least once a year to discuss the World Service's performance against its stated objectives.

The British broadcaster had angered the Modi government in early 2023 after it aired "India: The Modi Question" , a two-part documentary that was deeply critical of the government's relationship with India's minorities. The documentary, which was banned in India, also revealed that a British government report had held Prime Minister Narendra Modi responsible for the 2002 Gujarat riots.

As Ukraine war grinds on, Putin visits Saudi Arabia, UAE

Associated Press
DUBAI

Russian President Vladimir Putin began a trip on Wednesday to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, hoping to shore up support in the Mideast from two major oil producers allied to the U.S. as his war on Ukraine grinds on.

Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the UAE's Foreign Minister, met Mr. Putin after he bounded down the stairs of his presidential plane.

"I'm happy to meet you again," Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the country's ruler, said as he sat with Mr. Putin in the palace.

Four Russian Sukhoi Su-35 fighter jets accompanied Mr. Putin's plane on the flight, Russian state-run media reported.

Vladimir Putin

The pageantry in the Emirates highlights the UAE's expansive business ties to Russia that have exploded since grinding Western sanctions targeted Moscow.

Ukrainians on hand for the event expressed outrage over Mr. Putin being in the country. "It is extremely upsetting to see how the world treats war criminals, because that's what he is, in my opinion," said Marharyta Bohdanova, a worker at the Ukrainian pavilion at the COP-28 climate summit.

Johnson admits to making mistakes but defends COVID record

Associated Press
LONDON

Former U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson acknowledged on Wednesday that his government was too slow to grasp the extent of the COVID-19 crisis, but skirted questions about whether his indecisiveness had cost thousands of lives.

Testifying under oath at Britain's COVID-19 public inquiry, Mr. Johnson acknowledged that "we underestimated the scale and the pace of the challenge" when reports of a new virus began to emerge from China in early 2020. The "panic level was not sufficiently high", he said.

Mr. Johnson conceded that the government had "made mistakes," but emphasised collective failure rather than his own errors.

He said Ministers, civil servants and scientific advisers had failed to sound a "loud enough klaxon of alarm" about the virus. "I was not being informed that this was something that was going to require urgent and immediate action," he said.

Mr. Johnson acknowledged that he didn't attend any of the government's five crisis meetings on the new virus in February 2020, and only "once or twice" looked at meeting minutes from the government's scientific advisory group. He said that he relied on "distilled" advice from his science and medicine advisers.

He started his testimony with an apology "for the pain and the loss and the suffering of the COVID victims", though not for any of his own actions.

Science clear on the need to 'phase out' fossil fuel, says U.S. climate envoy John Kerry

Jacob Koshy
DUBAI

"The science was clear on the need to phase out some fossil fuel," the U.S. lead climate negotiator, John Kerry, said at a press conference on Wednesday.

"Else we are not going to be able to make the goal of being net zero by 2050 or have a shot at keeping temperatures below 1.5 degrees Celsius."

On Tuesday, a draft text of the Global Stock Take (GST), said to be the most important and contentious element of the climate talks ongoing here, for the first time mentioned that countries ought to be undertaking a "just and orderly phase out of fossil fuels".

While this could mean all of the major fossil fuels – coal, oil and gas – that are responsible for human-led greenhouse gas emissions, Mr. Kerry said that there would be some "tough negotiations" in the week ahead. He said that the U.S. and China had reached agreements on reducing methane emissions and the position of both countries as the "number one and two economies" of the world was critical to achieving these goals.

He endorsed the need for the use of "carbon capture and storage", a contested and largely unproven technology, to capture carbon emissions as necessary towards achieving the 1.5 degrees Celsius target. "You can raise some very legitimate questions around it, [but] I believe it is working to some extent," he said.

Mr. Kerry, however, refrained from commenting on what potential roadblocks to a deal on fossil fuels existed. In COP-26 at Glasgow, countries had veered close to a commitment to phase out coal until India objected to it and proposed instead that all fossil fuels be phased out. Ultimately, it was agreed that all countries would 'phase down' coal and "inefficient fossil fuel subsidies."

TENDER NOTICE

Central University of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvarur invites the Tender for

1. Shifting of Bio-Safety Laboratory-2 (BSL-2) and Cell culture facility from CLC-II building to Academic building-IV at dept. of Microbiology, CUTN.
2. Providing/ Supplying of good earth for Formation of lake bund at Central University of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvarur.
3. Repair and renovation works in proposed radio station centre at department of Media and Mass Communication, CUTN, Thiruvarur.

Tender Ref. No.:	Last date & Time:
1. CUTNCVL20232407	please see the CUTN website https://cutn.ac.in/tenders/
2. CUTNCVL20232408	
3. CUTNCVL20232411	

Note: For more details please see the CUTN website **www.cutn.ac.in** and CPP portal

TAMIL NADU HOUSING BOARD
COIMBATORE HOUSING UNIT

E-TENDERING AND E-AUCTION

Notification No. 01 to 107 **Date : 04.12.2023**

Coimbatore Housing has proposed to sell the '107' Nos of Commercial sites (As it is where in condition) through E-tendering and E-Auction through **https://tntenders.gov.in.** The cost of Plots and other conditions are given in the Official website TNHB.

For further details please visit 'TNHB's Official website **www.tnhb.tn.gov.in** from **07.12.2023, 10.00 A.M** to **03.01.2024, 11.00 A.M.** Tender opened on **03.01.2024, 11.30 A.M.**

Manager Marketing & Service
Coimbatore Housing Unit.
Peelamedu, Coimbatore – 641 004
Office Contact No. 0416 - 2252561
Mobile No- 99404 98965 / 97152 36922

Executive Engineer and Admin. Officer,
Coimbatore Housing Unit.

DIPR/ 6513 /TENDER/2023

Central University of Himachal Pradesh
(Established under Central Universities Act, 2009)

Employment Notice Dated 01.12.2023 for NON-TEACHING POSITIONS

Central University of Himachal Pradesh has invited online applications from eligible Indian citizens for various Non-Teaching positions to be filled on Direct Recruitment/Contract (against lien vacancy) basis only. The candidates may apply online for these various non-teaching positions. The last date of applying is **21.12.2023.** The recruitment will be done by National Testing Agency (NTA).

For detailed educational qualifications, experiences and all other terms & conditions, the interested candidates may visit NTA website exams.nta.ac.in.

REGISTRAR

TELANGANA FOODS
IDA: NACHARAM : HYDERABAD - 500076. Ph: 27152207, 08 & 09

Tender Notification

No. TF/GG/Tenders /HDPE and HM-HDPE Bags/1371/2023-24, Dt.6.12.2023

Telangana Foods invites e-Tenders for procurement of 20,00,000 Nos of HDPE Bags for Balamrutham & Snack Food (Outer Bags) and 2,00,000 Nos of HM-HDPE Bags for Snack Food (inner) for a period of 6 months. For details for Tender schedule with terms and conditions, specifications etc please visit website: **https://tender.eprocurement.gov.in**

R.O. No. : 810-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2023-24 **Sd/- Managing Director**

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 305,306,307,308/2023-24/KWA/ PHC/TVLA. **JJM - (1)** RWSS to Adichippuzha - Construction of Sump cum OHSR at Alimukku, Toilet, Transformer room, Pump sets, Supply and Laying Additional Distribution, Renovation of Intake well etc. **(2)** WSS to Ranni – Pazhavangadi, Vadasserikkara – Construction of OHSR at Anapramala, Anathadam, Madathumpadi Toilet, Transformer room and Transformers, Pump sets, Distribution Lines, etc. **(3)** RWSS to Chittar –Construction of GLSR at Kodumudi, Therakathuman Top & Bottom, Manpilavu, Toilet, Transformer room, Pump sets, Distribution Lines etc. **(4)** RWSS to Vechoochira - Construction of Booser Sump at Asramam, Kattachira, Transformer room, Supply of Pump sets, Distribution Lines, Supply and Erection of Transformer etc.
EMD : Rs. 500000 each, **Tender fee :** Rs. 19518 each, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 29-12-2023 02:00:pm, **Phone :** 04692600162, **Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer
PH Circle, Pathanamthitta
KWA-JB-GL-6-1781-2023-24

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : Re-e-tender no 167/2023-24/SE/PHC/ALP. **JJM -** CWSS to Mavelikkara and adjoining Panchayaths - Supplying and Laying of Distribution Network and giving FHTC for Thazhakkara Panchayath.
EMD : Rs. 5,00,000/-, **Tender fee :** Rs. 19,518, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 20-12-2023 02:00:pm, **Phone :** 0477-2237954, **Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer
PH circle, Alappuzha
KWA-JB-GL-6-1780-2023-24

KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION e - TENDER

Name of the Department : **Town Planning & Development Department**; Pre-tender meeting invited by : **OSD & Ex. Officio D.G (TP&DD)/(TNP), S. S. Hogg Market, Top Floor, West Block, Ph-II, 19, Nellie Sengupta Sarani, Kolkata-700087**; Name of the Work & Location : **Bank protection by CC Block lining and repairing of existing lining for Adi Ganga (Tolly's Nullah) from Chetla Bridge to Dhanadhanya Bridge**; Estimated Amount : **Rs. 8,97,07,553.00**; Date, Time & Location of Pre tender meeting : **12.12.2023 at 1 p.m. in the Conference room of Town Planning & Development Department, S.S. Hogg Market, Top Floor, West Block, Ph-II, 19, Nellie Sengupta Sarani, Kolkata-700087** **1046/23-24**

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE SERVICES, PUDUCHERRY

No.11699/DHFWS/2023-24/C5/RGGW&CH/ **Dated : 07.12.2023**

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

TENDER ID : (2023_MH_14414_1)

On behalf of the President of India, "e-tenders" are invited by the Director (Health), Directorate of Health & Family Welfare Services, Puducherry, for **Outsourcing of Health-care services in all Health Institutions of Union Territory of Puducherry and Facility Management Services (FMS) ie. in the 500 bedded Rajiv Gandhi Govt. Women and Children Hospital, Puducherry.**

Bidders should submit their tender online at the Government website **https://pudutenders.govt.in.** The tender details, EOI cum RFP, Specifications, Terms & conditions and time schedule may also be downloaded through linked website **https://www.py.gov.in** and **https://health.puducherry.gov.in** for reference only. The last date for submission of tender by online is **27.12.2023** upto **16.00 Hrs.**

Dr. G. SRIRAMULU
DIRECTOR (HEALTH)

No.497/DIP/Ad(Press)/2023-24

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CMG, SDSC - SHAR SRIHARIKOTA - 524124

Brief E-TENDER NOTICE : CORRIGENDUM-A

No:SHAR:CMG:CIVIL:MAINT:E-PT-18(A)/23-24 **Dt:06.12.2023**

Kindly refer to E-Public Tender - 18/23-24 dt 03.11.23 **"Providing RCC Substructure & steel column works @ Admin bldg, Keepakam"** (T/C-23-072, Est. cost ₹ 12.91 Lakhs). **Sale period extended up to 18.12.2023**. Interested tenderers may visit **www.isro.gov.in** or **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** for details.

Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/SDSC SHAR

INBRIEF

Sun, Aclaris sign $15-million agreement for hair-loss drug

Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, through its arm, has entered into a more than $15 million licensing pact with Aclaris Therapeutics Inc., a biopharma firm focused on developing novel drugs for immuno-inflammatory diseases. Under the pact, Aclaris has granted Sun Pharma exclusive rights for the use of deuruxolitinib, Sun Pharma's JAK inhibitor or other isotopic forms of ruxolitinib to treat alopecia areata (AA) or androgenetic alopecia (AGA).

Dr. Reddy's, Coya of U.S. to develop therapy for ALS

A Dr. Reddy's Laboratories subsidiary and NASDAQ-listed Coya Therapeutics have signed a licence agreement for the development and commercialisation of COYA 302, an investigational combination therapy for the treatment of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). Dr. Reddy's, which is required to make $7.5 million upfront payment to Coya, will get commercialisation rights in the U.S., Canada, EU and the U.K.

Government to sell up to 8% stake in state-run IRCON

The government will sell up to an 8% stake in state-run IRCON International this week, IRCON said in a filing. The plan includes selling 4% of the firm, with an option to sell an additional 4% if the offer is oversubscribed. The floor price has been set at ₹154 a share, a discount of about 10.5% to the stock's closing price on Wednesday. The government owns 73.18% in the company, and the 8% stake sale will help the government to raise about ₹1,159 crore. REUTERS

'Food prices likely shot up in Nov.'

Meal plate cost estimates suggest that food prices may have hardened last month owing to rising onion and tomato prices; Vegetarian food plates cost 9% higher in Nov. compared with last year prompted by festive demand and lower output

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

The cost of a typical vegetarian food plate in India surged by 10% in November on a month-on-month basis, owing to rising onion and tomato prices, while the price of a non-vegetarian meal rose 5% over October, Crisil Market Intelligence and Analytics said in its monthly report on food prices on Wednesday.

Coming ahead of the official retail inflation numbers expected next week, the report assumes significance as it suggests food inflation may have hardened in November. In October, even as the overall retail inflation eased to a four-month low of 4.87%, food costs for households were virtually unchanged from September at 6.6%.

The average vegetarian meal costs were at a three-month high of ₹30.3 in November, as per the report which calculates prices based on input costs.

Compared with November 2022, vegetarian food plates cost 9% higher last month and prices were flat for non-vegetarian meals. "The uptick was attributable to a substantial 58% and 35% on-month increase in onion and tomato prices, respectively, prompted by festive demand and lower output in the kharif season due to erratic rainfall conditions," the research firm said.

But onion prices were not the only trigger as the cost of pulses, whose sowing has been lower than last year in this kharif season, surged 21%, higher than the 18.8% uptick recorded in the official consumer price inflation data for October.

The cost of the non-vegetarian plate increased at a slower pace than that of the vegetarian plate because of a marginal 1%-3% decline in the prices of broilers, which account for about 50% of a non-vegetarian's food costs, the firm's analysts reckoned.

Pricey meals

The price of an average vegetarian meal surges to a three-month high of ₹30.3 in November, according to CRISIL

- The rise in meal price attributed to 58% and 35% month-on-month increases in onion and tomato prices, respectively
- Cost of pulses, whose sowing has been lower this year, rises 21%
- Cost of non-vegetarian meal rises at a slower pace due to marginal decline in the price of broilers

Govt. seeks parliament nod for extra spending for FY24

Reuters
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Wednesday sought parliament's approval for spending an additional ₹1.29 lakh crore in the current fiscal year, mainly towards higher subsidies for farmers and a rural employment guarantee programme.

The government said the net additional spending for the current fiscal year ending March 31, would be ₹58,378 crore, while the rest would be accommodated by reshuffling expenses.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration said it would spend ₹13,351 crore for fertiliser subsidies, while it would spend another ₹14,524 crore for a rural jobs scheme.

'The net cash outgo is moderate and could be matched by savings in other departments'

Mr. Modi, who will be seeking a third consecutive term in national polls in about six months time, has been doling out welfare measures via food and fertiliser subsidies, cheaper cooking gas and other measures to pump up the rural economy that is showing signs of weakness.

"The net cash outgo in the Supplementary Demand for Grants is moderate, and could be matched by savings in other departments," said Aditi Nayar, chief economist, ICRA Ltd. "This does not suggest a risk of the fiscal deficit target being overshot," Ms. Nayar added.

The additional fertiliser subsidies will raise the total subsidy for the current fiscal year by almost 8% to ₹1.88 lakh crore, while the minimum wage paying rural income scheme will be raised by almost 24% to ₹74,524 crore for the current fiscal year.

(*With inputs by Vikas Dhoot in New Delhi*)

SEBI, RBI share concern on AIFs masking bad loans

Reuters
MUMBAI

India's markets regulator and its central bank share concerns over instances of alternate investment funds (AIFs) being used to mask bad loans in the financial system, a top official said on Wednesday.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has seen "dozens of cases" of "egregious regulatory violations" by AIFs, such as to avoid recognition of non-performing assets, Ananth Narayan, a whole-time SEBI member, said at an event in Mumbai.

"(We) have shared our concern with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which agrees with our assessment," Mr. Narayan said.

Private credit funds fall under the broad category of AIFs for the purpose of regulations in India.

CII sees H2 growth remaining resilient

Industry body lifts FY24 economic growth view to 6.8%; strong domestic drivers, manufacturing, service sectors buttressing growth: CII President

INTERVIEW

R.Dinesh

Vikas Dhoot

India's manufacturing and services sector performance remains resilient and it is best to not take a view based on quarterly data, Confederation of India Industries (CII) President R. Dinesh said in an interview. Excerpts:

The industrial sector has done well in the second quarter while services activity seems to have lost momentum. What's your assessment of the outlook for the second half and how is capacity utilisation at factories looking?

It is prudent to not form any opinion on the performance of any sector based on quarterly readings. We believe that both manufacturing and service sector performance has remained resilient. A slew of favourable policies announced by the government in the recent years such as PLI scheme, improvement in ease of doing business, bringing down the cost of doing business and logistics cost... have buttressed the strong growth posted by the manufacturing sector. Service sector growth has benefitted from the post-pandemic rebound.

For the second half of the year, we expect the economic growth to remain resilient buttressed by strong domestic growth drivers and support from continued healthy performance by manufacturing and service sectors. In view of this, CII has upgraded its economic growth outlook for the current year to 6.8%, from 6.5% forecast earlier.

The capacity utilisation levels are on an uptrend in tandem with improvement noted in private investment levels. This is also buttressed by the latest reading of the CII's Business Outlook Survey, which showed that capacity utilisation continued to remain in a range of 75-100% for the third consecutive quarter in Q2FY24, which is noteworthy as capacity utilisation needs to be maintained between 75-80% to fuel fresh investments in the economy.

The RBI's monetary policy committee is meeting to review its stance. Do you think there are sectors where investments could take off if interest rates were more benign?

As the macroeconomic indicators in the country remain healthy, CII expects RBI to maintain a status quo on its key policy repo rate and continue with its emphasis on containing inflation and liquidity management. The policy of stable interest rates and maintaining a balance between growth and inflation has been much appreciated and helped corporates to fast-track investment decisions. Moreover, I believe that the economy has now matured enough not to get impacted by the rising interest rate scenario.

GST revenues have been very buoyant, with the last two months alone delivering ₹3.4 lakh crore of taxes. Would you say this is a good time to consider working towards rationalisation of the rate structure?

Initially, government had promised to compensate the shortfall of revenue, if any, to the States for five years. Now GST has stabilised, and buoyancy seen in revenue, therefore, it is time to review the imposition of compensation cess and further rationalisation of GST rates.

GST rates should be simplified and rationalised to a three-rate slab structure for ease of doing business and reduce GST litigation arising due to classification issues. Essential goods and services to be put under exempted or 5% slab. The slabs of 12% and 18% be merged into one slab, say 14% or 15%. Products of common use should be taxed on the new slab, and only luxury goods to be kept under 28% slab.

Google unveils 'Gemini,' AI tech trained to behave like humans

Associated Press

Google took its next leap in artificial intelligence (AI) with the launch of project Gemini, an AI model trained to behave in human-like ways that's likely to intensify the debate about the technology's potential promise and perils.

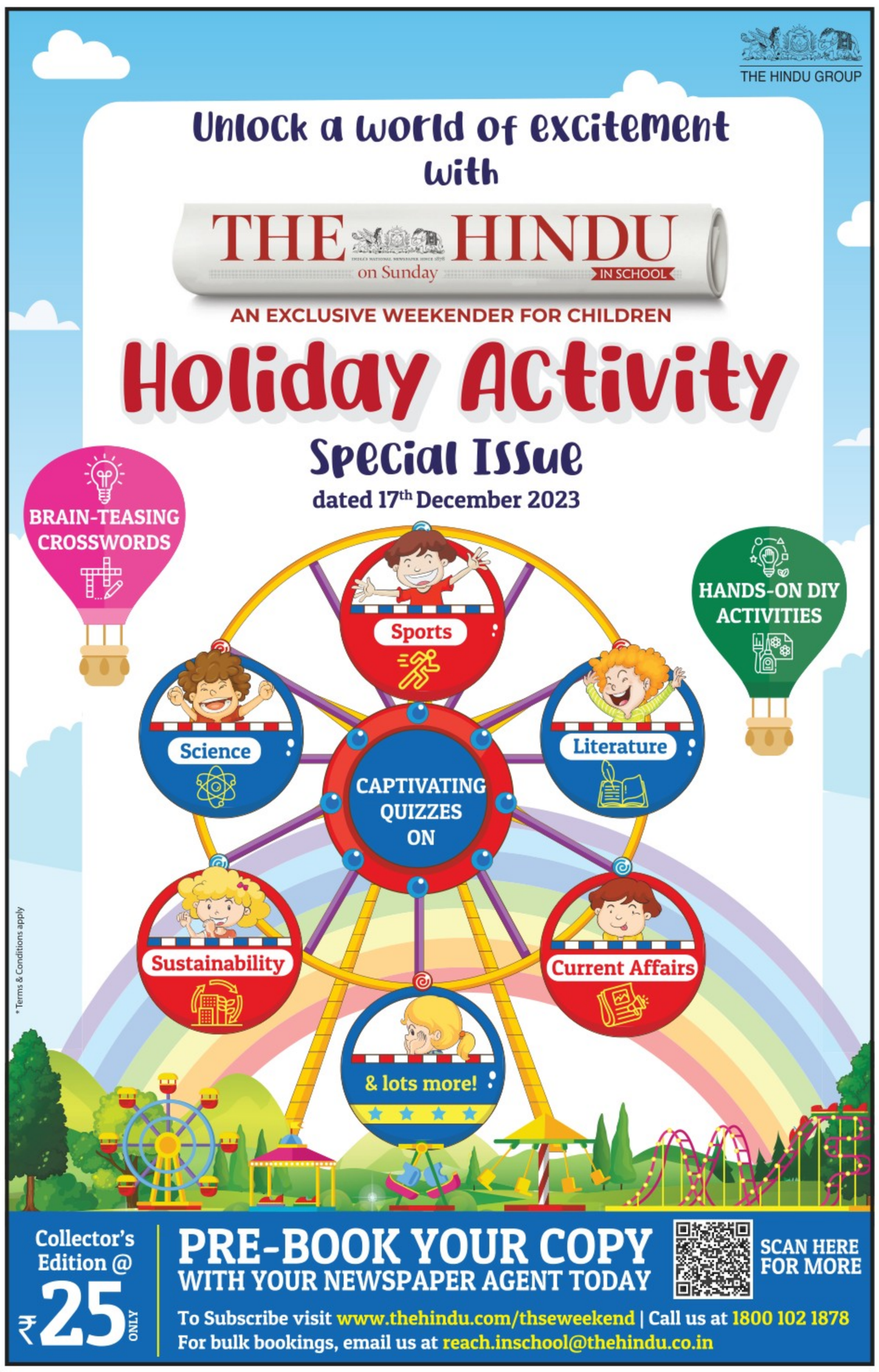
The rollout will unfold in phases, with less sophisticated versions of Gemini called 'Nano' and 'Pro' being immediately incorporated into Google's AI-powered chatbot Bard and its Pixel 8 Pro smartphone.

With Gemini providing a helping hand, Google promises Bard will become more intuitive and better at tasks that involve planning.

On the Pixel 8 Pro, Gemini will be able to quickly summarise recordings made on the device and provide automatic replies on messaging services, starting with WhatsApp, according to Google.

Gemini's biggest advances won't come until early next year when its Ultra model will be used to launch 'Bard Advanced,' a juiced-up version of the chatbot.

The AI, at first, will only work in English throughout the world, although Google executives assured that the technology will have no problem eventually diversifying into other languages. Based on a demonstration of Gemini for a group of reporters, Google's 'Bard Advanced' might be capable of unprecedented AI multitasking by simultaneously recognising and understanding presentations involving text, photos and video.



MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	CHANGE
Sensex	69,654	0.52
US Dollar	83.32	0.06
Gold	62,850	-0.63
Brent oil	75.20	-4.06

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2883.95	-75.40
Adani Ports	1017.95	4.85
Apollo Hosp	5543.10	-37.10
Asian Paints	3252.55	26.30
Axis Bank	1120.50	-11.95
Bajaj Auto	6069.95	-70.15
Bajaj Finserv	1700.35	7.65
Bajaj Finance	7427.10	77.30
Bharti Airtel	1024.45	-6.65
BPCL	472.85	0.65
Britannia Ind	5003.15	54.75
Cipla	1205.20	-19.25
Coal India	352.15	-3.40
Divis Lab	3734.45	-6.70
Dr Reddys Lab	5730.35	-46.10
Eicher Motors	4047.00	-89.50
Grasim Ind	2057.75	-14.60
HCL Tech	1329.55	12.00
HDFC Bank	1627.80	4.10
HDFC Life	677.35	4.60
Hero MotoCorp	3761.05	-45.70
Hindalco	523.00	2.35
Hind Unilever	2567.65	4.40
ICICI Bank	1003.25	-10.20
IndusInd Bank	1501.60	-5.00
Infosys	1474.30	20.35
ITC	463.25	11.50
JSW Steel	824.70	3.00
Kotak Bank	1821.40	-7.05
L&T	3392.30	76.85
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5639.85	152.20
M&M	1702.40	16.35
Maruti Suzuki	10625.75	-96.15
NestleIndia	24968.50	359.60
NTPC	281.10	-4.35
ONGC	201.95	-0.10
PowerGrid Corp	224.40	2.10
Reliance Ind	2461.10	23.35
SBI Life	1450.70	-10.25
State Bank	608.45	0.20
Sun Pharma	1240.35	0.80
TataConsumerProduct	951.70	1.65
Tata Motors	722.45	13.50
Tata Steel	131.85	0.25
TCS	3604.10	72.50
Tech Mahindra	1225.20	4.60
Titan	3546.90	1.60
UltraTech Cement	9213.00	-116.75
UPL	588.55	7.15
Wipro	418.75	14.40

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on December 06

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.17	83.49
Euro	90.37	90.72
British Pound	105.31	105.72
Japanese Yen (100)	56.69	56.90
Chinese Yuan	11.65	11.70
Swiss Franc	95.20	95.58
Singapore Dollar	62.29	62.54
Canadian Dollar	61.39	61.63
Malaysian Ringitt	17.85	17.93
Australian Dollar	55.28	55.50

Source:Indian Bank

RULES ARE RULES

Bangladesh's Mushfiqur out obstructing the field against NZ

FANCODE

Bangladesh's Mushfiqur Rahim was dismissed for obstructing the field in Wednesday's second Test against New Zealand in Dhaka. NZ appealed against Mushfiqur, who was found to have pushed the ball away with his gloves while defending against Kyle Jamieson in the 41st over. TV umpire Ahsan Raza declared Mushfiqur out for 35.

FULLY COMMITTED

Will play in the IPL until I can't walk anymore, says Maxwell

K. MURALI KUMAR

Glenn Maxwell has vowed to play in the IPL "until he can't walk anymore". The 35-year-old will don the Royal Challengers Bangalore colours again next year. "The IPL will probably be the last tournament I ever play as I will play in it until I can't walk anymore," Maxwell was quoted as saying by Australian Associated Press (AAP).

TOP OF THE CHARTS

Bishnoi becomes No. 1 T20I bowler after his heroics against Australia

K. MURALI KUMAR

India leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi on Wednesday rose to the top spot in the ICC T20I bowling chart on the back of his performance against Australia recently. Bishnoi, with 699 rating points, jumped five places to displace Afghanistan's Rashid Khan (692) from the top slot. Suryakumar Yadav held on to the No. 1 spot among batters.

RAID KING

Sachin proves unstoppable as Pirates power past Titans

VIJAY SONEJI

Patna Pirates produced a scintillating show to record a 50-28 victory over Telugu Titans in the Pro Kabaddi League in Ahmedabad on Wednesday. Raider Sachin led the charge for Pirates with 14 points while Pawan Sehrawat (11) was the lone warrior for Titans. U.P. Yoddhas put on a masterclass to overpower Haryana Steelers 57-27.

Wyatt, Sciver-Brunt set up England's facile win in opener against India

With the team reeling at two for two, the batters counterattack and power the visitors to a mammoth 197; the bowlers, led by Ecclestone, then take over and tie the host batters in a knot; Shafali's innings the lone bright spot; fielding lapses also cost Harmanpreet's side dear

ENGLAND IN INDIA

Shayan Acharya
MUMBAI

The Women in Blue had everything going for them in the lead-up to the first T20I against England – familiar conditions, huge crowd support and a favourable coin.

However, once the show started at the Wankhede Stadium on Wednesday, it was England which called the shots. Opener Danni Wyatt (75, 47b, 8x4, 2x6) and No. 4 Natalie Sciver-Brunt (77, 53b, 13x4) went on the rampage as the visitors posted a mammoth 197 – their second highest total – and registered a 38-run win to go 1-0 up in the three-match series.

Opting to bowl, India got off to a dream start as Renuka Singh, returning to the side after a stress injury, castled Sophie Dunkley and Alice Capsey off successive deliveries in the first over.

However, Wyatt and Sciver-Brunt counterattacked, adding 138 for the third wicket.

England reached 89 for two at the halfway stage, cashing in on India's sloppiness in the field. Harmanpreet Kaur's team dropped a few catches, allowing England to motor along.

Dazzling duo: Sciver-Brunt and Wyatt's stroke-filled knocks took England to a total that proved beyond India's reach. EMMANUAL YOGINI

As she took charge of the innings, Wyatt brought back memories of her remarkable innings in 2018 when she hammered a 64-ball 124 against the same opponent but at a different ground (Brabourne Stadium). She hit debutant Saika Ishaque for a few boundaries, making it tough for the Indian bowlers. The opener received a lifeline when Pooja Vastrakar spilled a catch at long-on off another debutant Shreyanka Patil (two for 44). Wyatt utilised the opportunity and went hard at the spinners before being stumped by Richa Ghosh off Saika.

At the other end, Sciver-Brunt unleashed her range of shots on both sides of the wicket en route her fifth T20I half-century against India. The sweep was Sciver-Brunt's staple shot as she scored quite a few runs off it. In the final overs, Saika and Shreyanka managed to keep the England batters on a leash and restrict the team to under 200.

In pursuit of a big total, the Indians failed to get going. Left-arm spinner Ecclestone, coming off a shoulder surgery, teased and tormented the batters and finished with three for 15 in four overs.

Having lost Smriti Mandhana and Jemimah Rodrigues early on, it was left to Shafali Verma (52, 42b, 9x4) and skipper Harmanpreet Kaur to provide a flicker of hope.

However, once Ecclestone cleaned up the India captain, the middle-order looked lost. Richa Ghosh's 16-ball 21 wasn't enough to take the Indians even close to the target.

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND
Sophia Dunkley b Renuka 1 *(2b)*, Danni Wyatt st. Richa b Saika 75 *(47b, 8x4, 2x6)*, Alice Capsey b Renuka 0 *(1b)*, Nat Sciver-Brunt c Richa b Renuka 77 *(53b, 13x4)*, Heather Knight b Shreyanka 6 *(7b, 1x4)*, Amy Jones c Jemimah b Shreyanka 23 *(9b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Freya Kemp (not out) 5 *(2b, 1x4)*; Extras (b-1, lb- 3, w-5, nb-1): 10; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 197.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-2 (Dunkley, 0.4 overs), 2-2 (Capsey, 0.5), 3-140 (Wyatt, 15.1), 4-165 (Knight, 17.2), 5-177 (Sciver-Brunt, 18.5), 6-197 (Jones, 19.6).

INDIA BOWLING
Renuka 4-0-27-3, Pooja 4-0-44-0, Saika 4-0-38-1, Deepti 3-0-28-0, Shreyanka 4-0-44-2, Kanika 1-0-12-0.

INDIA
Shafali Verma c Glenn b Ecclestone 52 *(42b, 9x4)*, Smriti Mandhana b Sciver-Brunt 6 *(7b, 1x4)*, Jemimah Rodrigues c Jones b Kemp 4 *(8b)*, Harmanpreet Kaur b Ecclestone 26 *(21b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Richa Ghosh c Capsey b Glenn 21 *(16b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Kanika Ahuja c Sciver-Brunt b Ecclestone 15 *(12b, 1x4)*, Pooja Vastrakar (not out) 11 *(11b, 2x4)*, Deepti Sharma (not out) 3 *(3b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-20): 21; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 159.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-20 (Smriti, 2.2), 2-41 (Jemimah, 5.1), 3-82 (Harmanpreet, 10.2), 4-122 (Richa, 14.4), 5-134 (Shafali, 16.2), 6-151 (Kanika, 18.2).

ENGLAND BOWLING
Mahika 2-0-18-0, Bell 4-0-35-0, Sciver-Brunt 4-0-35-1, Kemp 2-0-30-1, Ecclestone 4-0-15-3, Glenn 4-0-25-1.

Toss: India; **PoM:** Sciver-Brunt.
England won by 38 runs to lead three-match series 1-0.
Second T20I: December 9, Mumbai, 7.30 p.m.

Team India departs from Bengaluru for tour of South Africa

Wheels up! The all-format tour of South Africa will kickstart on December 10. INSTAGRAM@RINKUKUMAR12

ANI
BENGALURU

The Indian cricket team departed from Bengaluru on Tuesday night for its tour to South Africa. The Men in Blue, including Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shreyas Iyer, Yashasvi Jaiswal, head coach Rahul Dravid and Mohammed Siraj among others, departed from Kempegowda International Airport.

The all-format tour of South Africa will kickstart on December 10 with a three-match T20I series which will go on till December 14.

From December 17, the ODI leg of the white-ball series will start which will conclude on September 21. Seniors like skipper Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Jasprit Bumrah will miss the white-ball leg of the all-format series. Suryakumar Yadav, the No. 1 T20I batter will lead the T20I team while KL Rahul will be captaining the ODI team.

Youngsters like Rinku Singh, Tilak Varma, Sai Sudarshan and Rajat Patidar have received call-ups for the ODI squad.

The senior players will return for the two-match Test series, with the first Test in Centurion from December 26 and the second Test at Cape Town from January 3.

This red-ball leg of the series will be the most anticipated one for Indian fans as they are yet to register a Test series win in South Africa. Cricket South Africa (CSA) on Monday announced its squads.

Spinners leave Kiwis in tatters, Bangladesh battles back in Test

Oh, no! Conway is castled after misreading Mehidy's delivery. AP

NZ IN BANGLADESH

Agence France-Presse
DHAKA

Spinners Mehidy Hasan and Taijul Islam shared five wickets between them to help Bangladesh claw its way back into contention, with New Zealand struggling at 55 for five on the opening day of the second Test.

Like a pack of cards

An astonishing 15 wickets fell on the first day, with the hosts all out for 172 in an innings where Mushfiqur Rahim became just the second batter in Tests to be dismissed obstructing the field.

Mehidy and Taijul then cut a swathe through New Zealand in the final session before bad light prompted an early finish.

Mehidy scalped Devon Conway (11), Kane Williamson (13) and Tom Blundell (0) in between Taijul's dismissal of Tom Latham (4) and Henry Nicholls (1) to obliterate the tourists' early advantage.

The scores: Bangladesh 172 in 66.2 overs (Mushfiqur Rahim 35, Mitchell Santner 3/65, Glenn Phillips 3/31) vs New Zealand 55/5 in 12.4 overs (Mehidy Hasan Miraz 3/17).

Minas proves too strong for Ahmedabad Defenders

VOLLEYBALL

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Brazil's Itambe Minas proved too good for Ahmedabad Defenders as it ran out a 25-22, 25-23, 25-19 winner in a Pool-A match on the opening day of the FIVB men's Volleyball Club World Championships at the Koramangala Indoor Stadium here on Wednesday. The Indian franchise matched Minas for a good part of two sets, but lost steam in the third.

It was evident from the start that the contest rested on how much attacking space the visitors would be allowed. The trio of Michael Sanchez, Paulo Silva and Marcus Coelho led the charge with some fine spiking. But Minas let Defenders stay within touching distance in the opening two sets by committing a slew of mistakes, including many on serve.

However, Minas was head and shoulders above Defenders in the third. Cuban Sanchez was the top-scorer, totalling 20 points in the match (17 attacks, 2 blocks and 1 serve), and was ably assisted by Silva (10 pts) and Coelho (9).

On the attack: Sanchez broke through the Defenders wall time and time again. SUDHAKARA JAIN

For Defenders, Amit Balwan Singh was the best, scoring 13 points in all.

In the day's first tie, Japan's Suntory Sunbirds defeated Turkish side Halkbank Spor Kulubu 25-23, 25-23, 25-16.

The results:

Suntory Sunbirds bt Halkbank Spor Kulubu 25-23, 25-23, 25-16.

Itambe Minas bt Ahmedabad Defenders 25-22, 25-23, 25-19.

Sadiku to Bagan's rescue against Odisha at home

ISL-10

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

Defending champion Mohun Bagan Super Giant erased a two-goal deficit to hold visiting Odisha FC 2-2 in an ISL-10 fixture at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Wednesday.

Ahmed Jahouh found the goals for Odisha, while Armando Sadiku netted for Bagan.

An injury-riddled Bagan failed to bring up the desired cohesion in its game thereby letting a more organised Odisha to shape up the attacks with greater regularity.

The list of injuries had grown for the host just before the match as its French play-maker Hugo Boumous was ruled out, forcing coach Juan Ferrando to fall back on the reserves once more.

Jahouh's first

The visitor found the first goal near the half-hour mark when Bagan defender Subhasish Bose made the cardinal error of handling the ball while trying to block a header from Odisha midfielder Puitea. Jahouh made no mistake from the spot.

Marksmen: Jahouh, left, and Sadiku shared four goals between them. DEBASISH BHADURI

Bagan had more disappointment in store as it conceded the second goal in the first half injury-time.

Jahouh won the ball from the Bagan midfielder Sahal Abdul Samad and scored after his teammate upfront Diego Mauricio had set up a nice cross at the Bagan goalmouth.

Sahal, who bore the brunt of Jahouh's sliding attempt, limped off towards the end of the first half to increase Bagan's worries.

Stepping up

Mohun Bagan pulled one back in the 58th minute off Sadiku, who later found the equaliser in the injury-time (90+4) to save the host the blushes.

The result:

Mohun Bagan 2 (Sadiku 58 & 90+4) drew with Odisha FC 2 (Jahouh 30-pen & 45+3).

INBRIEF

Messi named Time's 'Athlete of the Year'

Lionel Messi has been named Time magazine's 'Athlete of the Year' for 2023 after a trailblazing season marked by an eighth Ballon d'Or award and his ground-breaking move to Major League Soccer's Inter Miami. Time said the Argentine superstar had already had a transformative impact on the American sporting landscape, which has been historically slow to embrace football.

Pakistan skipper Masood hits ton in Australia warm-up

New Pakistan skipper Shan Masood hit an unbeaten 156 on Wednesday in a warm-up match against Prime Minister's XI here, ahead of their three-Test series against Australia. After opting to bat, Masood, who came to the crease when opener Imam-ul-Haq was dismissed, hit 13 fours and a six to steer Pakistan to 324 for six at stumps on the opening day of the four-day fixture. Australia's bowlers laboured on a flat pitch at Manuka Oval with speedster Jordan Buckingham the pick with three for 63. The visitors meet Australia in three Tests – in Perth, Melbourne and Sydney – from December 14.

Abhay Singh goes down to Baptiste Masotti

India's Abhay Singh lost to Baptiste Masotti of France 8-11, 5-11, 1-11 in the men's second round of the Lucino Vanities-New Zealand Open squash in Tauranga on Wednesday. Velavan will take on Paul Coll of New Zealand in the second round on Thursday.

Prarthana-Tikhonova combine in semifinals

Prarthana Thombare in partnership with Russia's Anastasia Tikhonova beat Emily Appleton and Alicia Barnett of Britain 6-4, 6-3 in the doubles quarterfinals of the $100,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Dubai on Wednesday.

Sameer stuns third seed Kiran in Masters badminton

Sameer Verma upset third seeded Kiran George in the men's second round of the Yonex-Sunrise Guwahati Masters BWF Tour Super 100 International badminton tournament on Wednesday.

The results (second round): Men: Kuo Kuan Lin (Tpe) bt Sai Praneeth 14-21, 21-17, 21-7; Maisnam Meiraba Luwang bt Siddhanth Gupta 21-19, 14-21, 21-17; Sameer Verma bt Kiran George 21-13, 21-13; Alvi Wijaya Chairullah (Ina) bt Raghu Mariswamy 21-14, 21-17; Mads Christophersen (Den) bt Chirag Sen 21-5, 21-9.; Subhankar Dey bt Saneeth Dayanand Shimoga 21-17, 23-25, 21-17; Mithun Manjunath bt Hemanth M. Gowda 21-14, 21-10.

Women: Ira Sharma bt Wong Ling Ching (Mas) 17-21, 21-17, 21-12; Letshanaa Karupathevan (Mas) bt Wiktoria Dabzynska (Pol) 15-2 (retd.); Isharani Baruah bt Shuo Yun Sung (Tpe) 21-13, 21-10; Malvika Bansod bt Fadilah Shamika Mohamed Rafi (Uga) 21-10, 21-10; Unnati Hooda bt Stephanie Widjaja (Ina) 21-16, 21-19; Aakarshi Kashyap bt Amalie Schulz (Den) 15-21, 21-17, 22-20.

LIVE TELECAST

Hockey: Men's Junior World Cup 2023, Sports-18 3 & 1 HD, JioCinema, 5.30 p.m.

Volleyball: Club World Championship: Sony Ten 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 8.30 p.m.

PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), Disney+Hotstar, 8 p.m.

Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1 a.m. (Friday).

Rice's late strike caps Arsenal's fightback in seven-goal thriller at Luton Town

Goalkeeper Raya's blunders costs the Gunners two goals; Martinelli, Jesus and Havertz get on the scoresheet for the table toppers

The clincher: Rice rises above the Luton Town defence to head home Arsenal's winner. GETTY IMAGES

PREMIER LEAGUE

Associated Press
LUTON

Declan Rice scored in the seventh minute of stoppage time to earn Premier League leader Arsenal a wild 4-3 win over Luton and spare the blushes of teammate David Raya.

Raya made errors that led to two goals for Luton, leaving Arsenal on the cusp of dropping two points at Kenilworth Road.

However, with the clock having run past the six allotted minutes of stoppage time, Rice got on the end of Martin Odegaard's cross and glanced a header into the bottom corner for a victory that lifted Arsenal five points clear.

Gabriel's on target

Gabriel Martinelli and Gabriel Jesus scored either side of Gabriel Osho's equaliser for Luton as Arsenal led 2-1 at halftime, with Mikel Arteta's team going in search of a fourth straight victory in the Premier League and sixth in a row in all competitions.

Then came Raya's mistakes.

Firstly, the goalkeeper was beaten in the air at a corner by Elijah Adebayo, who powered in a header for an equaliser in the 49th minute.

Eight minutes later, Raya allowed a shot by Ross Barkley to go under his body as he dived to his left, giving Luton – a promoted team likely to be battling relegation this season – an unexpected 3-2 advantage.

Kai Havertz equalised in the 60th minute goal and Rice completed the comeback after relentless late pressure from Arsenal.

Raya's blunders furthered concerns he might not be the long-term answer as Arsenal's goalkeeper after he took the place of Aaron Ramsdale this season following his off-season arrival from Brentford.

The results: Wolves 1 (Hwang 42) bt Burnley 0; Luton Town 3 (Osho 25, Adebayo 49, Barkley 57) lost to Arsenal 4 (Martinelli 20, Jesus 45, Havertz 60, Rice 90+7).

Pankaj makes a winning start

Easy outing: Pankaj warmed up for the challenges ahead with breaks of 41, 44 and 34 in Group A. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

NATIONAL BILLIARDS

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Pankaj Advani made a winning start to his 6-red snooker campaign on Wednesday after Cyclone Michaung forced a two-day break in the ongoing 90th National billiards & snooker championships here.

Pankaj (PSPB), who won a record 26th ISBF world title in Doha last month, brushed aside Sufyan Ahmed of Karnataka 4-0 as he warmed up for the challenges ahead with breaks of 41, 44 and 34 in Group A.

A total of 64 players have been divided equally into 16 groups for the main draw round-robin league, with the top two from each qualifying for the knockouts.

Among other notable matches of the day, last year's semi-finalist Kamal Chawla (RSPB) put it past Hassan Badami (Maharashtra) 4-0 in Group B and Aditya Mehta (PSPB) beat Vijay Nichani (TN) 4-1 in Group G.

SNAPSHOTS

Wozniacki handed Australian Open wild card

Caroline Wozniacki was awarded a wild card for the Australian Open on Wednesday as the 2018 champion returns to Melbourne for the first time in four years. The 33-year-old retired after the 2020 Australian Open to start a family but returned to the tour at Montreal in August. The mother of two played her first Grand Slam in three years at the US Open and reached the last 16.

"I have so many wonderful memories of Melbourne and of course winning the Australian Open is an all-time career highlight," said the Dane.

Punjab men stay on course

Punjab continued to assert its strength as it beat Rajasthan 77-59 in the men's group-A league match of the 73rd National basketball championship in Ludhiana on Wednesday.

The results (league): Men: Group-A: Punjab 77 (Kanwar Gurbaj Singh 28, Gurwinder Singh 21, Amritpal Singh 18) bt Rajasthan 59 (Lokendra Singh 18, Devendra Chowdary 14).

Services 85 (Rishab Mathur 17, Sahil 16, Nikhil Kumar 16) bt Madhya Pradesh 76 (Surya Pratap Singh 24, Shreyansh Raj Singh 17).

Group-B: Kerala 97 (Shanazil Muhammed 32, Joshua Oommen 13, Grigo Mathew 12, Vaisak Manoj 12) bt Gujarat 71 (Kuldeep Tamaliya 15, Sagar Moni 12, Kasi Raja 11, Vinay Kaushik 10).

Women: Group-A: Tamil Nadu 82 (Krithika 16 Sathya 12, Ashmitha 10) bt West Bengal 38 (Megha Singh 18, Jyoti 13).

Railways 124 (Poonam Chaturvedi 24, Madhu Kumari 22, Harshita 14, Priyanka 14, Bhandavya 14, Nisha Sharma 11, Ssruthi Aravind 10) bt Chhattisgarh 61 (Nisha Kashyap 16, Divyani Ganwal 13, Moni Adla 11)

Group-B: Uttar Pradesh 78 (Shruti Yadav 37, Megha Singh 14, Nancy Gupta 10, Lipramayee Satapathy 10) bt Maharashtra 66 (Samira Bidaye 16, Siya Deodhar 14, Suzanne Pinto 10).

Kerala 75 (Jayalakshmi VJ 15, Aneesha Cleetus 13, Kaviha Jose 12) bt Punjab 33 (Kavya Singla 10).

Ready for a hit: Wozniacki will return to Melbourne for the first time in four years. AP

Top names for Pro Tennis League

Leading players from the country will be seen in action in the fifth edition of the Harven Pro Tennis League to be played at the DLTA Complex here from December 7 to 10.

Mukund Sasikumar will get a taste of the competition, along with players like

Mukund Sasikumar. FILE PHOTO: SANDEEP SAXENA

Anirudh Chandrasekar, Karan Singh, Arjun Kadhe, Nitin Kumar Sinha, Siddhant Banthia, Rithvik Bollipalli and Vishnu Vardhan.

The women's field has Sahaja Yamalapalli, Sowjanya Bavisetti, Vaishnavi Adkar, Soha Sadiq, Jennifer Luikham, Kashish Bhatia, Sharmada Balu and Sravya Shivani.

The eight teams will compete in two groups, with each tie featuring seven matches of singles and doubles, played over a total of 160 points. The singles matches will be played for 90 points, and the three doubles matches will offer 70 points.

Pujara, the pitch-whisperer with a better strike rate than Compton

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

When India won a series for the first time in England in 1971, local restaurants celebrated by putting on their menu such culinary delights as the Wadekar cutlet, the Gavaskar curry and the Bedi pulao. When they beat Australia for the first time, in 2018-19, it was the Pujara Dance that was the feature of the celebration.

Skipper Virat Kohli credited Rishabh Pant with choreographing it after the final Test in Sydney where Cheteshwar Pujara made 193, his third century of the series of which Greg Baum wrote in the Sydney Morning Herald, "Pujara set in, like winter. He was struck 11 times, in head, ribs and hands, and they all hurt, but he was also the fulcrum…"

A visibly embarrassed Pujara struggled with his footwork as teammates did the Pujara Dance, unable to get his timing right or wait for the moment.

He had no such problems while making 521 runs in the series and playing over 200 deliveries in an innings four times. Among those with 100-plus Tests Pujara has a better strike rate than Boycott, Sunil Gavaskar, Rahul Dravid, Allan Border, Des Haynes, David Boon. Overall, he scored at a faster rate than Denis Compton and Walter Hammond.

Pujara remained a bugbear to bowlers everywhere, as the game changed before his eyes. Space for the defensive batter in the age of 'maximums' and 90-metre sixes, had shrunk, perhaps disappeared. Among the moderns, Pujara was the least troubled by a maiden over. It allowed him to study the bowler and the conditions without risk.

In a little over a month, Pujara turns 36. Not in the team for the tour of South Africa, his future will depend on how well India do there. The Saurashtra batter is used to being criticized, dropped, brought back and then praised to the skies. Maybe the wheel will turn again, even if it looks unlikely. Like Mohinder Amarnath, Pujara is ready, willing and able whenever India need spine in the middle.

He has vacated one of the most crucial slots, the No. 3 occupied by Rahul Dravid. When Pujara made his debut against Australia with a cultured 72 in Bengaluru, he was 22. Dravid said the youngster was a better batter than Dravid himself had been at that age.

To become Pujara requires special skills. He might be called the pitch-whisperer for his ability to understand what the 22-yard strip is telling the players. If he fell short of true greatness, it was because he seldom rose above the limitations of the pitch. He read it well, but could not dictate to it.

This made Pujara an easy scapegoat whenever the Indian batting failed. He was the target when India lost the World Test Championship final to Australia earlier this year, and was dropped for the West Indies tour. Shubman Gill, a more attacking No.3 and already tasked with the job of carrying the batting post the Kohli-Pujara period, filled the slot.

Cricket boards tend to allow some players the luxury of choosing when and where they will retire. India's board organized a series against the West Indies so Sachin Tendulkar could play his 200th Test and retire at his home ground. Even Australia, who see cricket as a team game, allowed Steve Waugh a series of farewells while currently David Warner is being given a hero's send-off.

It is unlikely that Pujara will ask for or be given such a farewell even if his contribution to Indian cricket is as valuable if less flashy. He belongs to the line stretching back from Dravid and Gavaskar to Vijay Merchant, with a technique built on sound defence calculated to frustrate bowlers over long periods. If Dravid was the wall, Pujara is the barrier, seeing out the fast men before wading into the spinners and unfurling his array of strokes.

With Pujara, you saw the evolution of batting as a craft, defence giving way to attack with the inevitability coaches tell youngsters about. There was too his unspoken and unrecorded manner of protecting his partner, especially the youngsters. Pujara may be the last of his kind, a cricketing exemplar of Keats's 'negative capability', accepting uncertainties without reaching for trendiness and false respect. He deserves more than a fun dance in his name.

Vijayveer clinches standard pistol golds

NATIONAL SHOOTING

Sports Bureau

Vijayveer Sidhu won the men's and junior gold medals in 25m standard pistol in the 66th National shooting championships in Bhopal on Wednesday.

Ankur Goel and Vijayveer were tied at 575, but the latter took the gold on the basis of better score of inner-10s, 15-13.

Vijayveer was joined on the podium by twin brother Udhayveer with the bronze medal in the junior section.

The results: 25m standard pistol: Men: 1. Vijayveer Sidhu 575 (15x); 2. Ankur Goel 575 (13x), 3. Mukesh Nelavalli 573.

Junior: 1. Vijayveer 575; 2. Mukesh Nelavalli 573 (17x); 3. Udhayveer Sidhu 573 (10x).

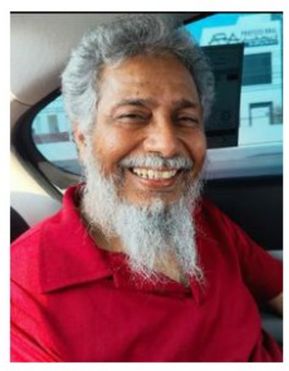
KARNATAKA ROUND UP

Khali Modi passes away

Former India junior international and Karnataka player Khalid Modi passed away after a brief illness in Bengaluru on Wednesday. He was 61.

A fine goalkeeper, he had stints as a coach with the Indian women's team, the Karnataka State hockey team and most recently with the Qatar national side.

The Karnataka State Hockey Association (KSHA) condoled his death.



Khalid Modi.

Former State player Gurumurthy no more

The KSHA also announced with sadness the passing of M.P Gurumurthy, a former State hockey player and one of its good goalkeepers.

He was attached to the BEL Sports Club for a majority of his playing career.